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LD091412 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Missile Exchange—Iraq announced five more missile strikes on Iran between 1228 GMT 8 March and 0824 GMT the following day, while Iran reported four launchings against Iraq. The Iraqi attacks, as announced in military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, targeted Tehran, Esfahan, and Qom. The Iranian missiles were fired at "military" targets in Baghdad and Mosul, according to IRGC announcements carried by IRNA and Tehran radio. An Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses also reported an Iraqi air strike on a "very large" maritime target off the Iranian coast 8 March. Iranian planes bombed Iraqi positions in the Al-'Amarah area the following day, Tehran radio reported.

On the casualty toll in Iran, IRNA stated that 35 people were killed and 120 injured by Iraqi missile strikes on Tehran 8-9 March, while attacks on Esfahan also caused "substantial" civilian casualties. For Iraq's part, a communique carried by Voice of the Masses said "a number" of civilians were killed or wounded in Iran's bombardment of Baghdad, Mosul and other cities.

Iranian Comment—Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi "welcomed" a Soviet proposal for halting the war of the cities, IRNA reported 9 March. The Iranian official said his country is awaiting details of the Soviet proposal and believes it would benefit all countries if attacks on cities and economic centers and resources were banned by the UN Security Council. An Iranian military spokesman had earlier stressed that Iran will be prepared to halt its "deterrent measures" whenever Iraq ceases its "mischief," Tehran radio reported.

In contrast to recent remarks by the Iranian Majlis speaker, a Tehran radio commentary charged the USSR with supplying Iraq with missiles, contending that "the delivery of surface-to-surface missiles by the Russians to the madmen ruling Baghdad is a futile attempt to make up for the disgraceful defeats that they have suffered from the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries." The Soviet ambassador reaffirmed to TASS that the USSR has "nothing to do with" the current missile exchange, and that it "has not supplied and is not supplying Iraq with missiles capable of reaching Tehran."

Israel

Shamir on Negev Attack—Israel holds "all" the Arab countries in the region responsible for the terrorist attack in the Negev, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted in remarks broadcast by IDF radio. He said this applies to "the Arab countries from where the murderers came," whose media broadcast "praise and encouragement for this murderous act." In Egypt, an "official diplomatic source" cited by MENA warned that the fedayeen operation "will not be the last" as long as Israel continues its "repressive and violent" policy against the Palestinians.

Peace Process—The Inner Cabinet debated Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative 9 March but the ministers dispersed without making any decision, Jerusalem radio reported. Earlier, in a Jerusalem television interview, Shamir said he is leaving for the United States "armed with plans, suggestions, and ideas on ways to promote the peace process." After meeting Shultz in Washington, Likud MK Moshe Arens told Jerusalem radio of his concern that Shultz' current proposals give the international conference "much more weight and a larger role than had been discussed previously," and he contended that Shultz "went back on some of his original positions" in order to obtain Arab and Soviet participation in the peace process.

For the Alignment, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told his supporters that accepting the Shultz plan could be one of Israel's "greatest opportunities" for peace, and he said it could lead to a swift resumption of relations with the USSR and the PRC, IDF radio noted.

Territories—A Palestinian was shot dead by a settler near Ramallah after the Israeli's car was blocked by a stone roadblock, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Another Arab was wounded when a settler opened fire at stonethrowers near Nabulus, the POST said, and a settler was also injured by a rock near Jerusalem. In another development, Jerusalem radio disclosed that the body of an Arab policeman was found in a refugee camp, noting that the man was probably murdered because of his employment. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin described the murder as an "extremely grave incident," IDF radio noted.

Syria

There is "nothing new" in the latest peace proposals and they are the same as "all of the plans that have been proposed for many years," even if "the words are different," President Hafiz al-Asad asserted in a revolution anniversary speech broadcast by Damascus radio. What is important, he added, is that "the war is continuing," sometimes with military means and at other times with stones and popular demonstrations. Warning against the "pitfalls of haste in searching for a solution," the Syrian leader said it is "not important that we settle our conflict tomorrow," and what is more important is that the Arabs do not "sell out" their rights "no matter how momentous are the sacrifices."

Lebanon

Oxfam official Peter Coleridge and his Syrian colleague 'Umar al-Tarabulsi were released in Sidon 8 March, Beirut radio reported, noting that they were handed over

to Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization. A spokesman for the Fatah-Revolutionary Council, which is led by Sabri al-Banna (alias Abu Nidal), confirmed that his group had detained and interrogated the two men because Coleridge was taking unauthorized photographs. In remarks reported by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Coleridge acknowledged that taking photographs in 'Ayn al-Hulwah was a "grave mistake," and he maintained that his detention was not a kidnapping.

Libya

Prisoners' Release—Members of the basic people's congresses and people's committees, "on instigation from the revolutionary committees," raided and destroyed prisons in four towns, freeing further numbers of prisoners, JANA reported. The agency noted that the move was in accordance with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's "historic" demolition of a prison on 3 March.

Clash in Chad—A FANT communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio stated that Chadian troops repulsed another incursion from western Sudan by the Libyan-backed Islamic Legion, killing 20 invaders and capturing 10 for the loss of one FANT soldier killed. The FANT command said the attack illustrates Al-Qadhdhafi's "bad faith" and his desire to "annex" Chad.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche submitted a draft revision of the constitution to the House of Representatives, noting that the proposed amendments are in line with the political change of 7 November 1987, Tunis radio reported. The amendments will delete the clause making it possible to hold the presidency for life, and will also authorize the appointment of a vice president, he indicated.

Meanwhile, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with Saudi King Fahd in Riyadh, the radio reported, noting that their talks covered bilateral relations and other issues.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Secretary General Bisharah Interviewed

PM041045 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Mar 88 p 28-30

[Interview with GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: This is your third official visit to Washington, and it comes after a reduction in the size of the U.S. military force in the Gulf. Have you conveyed to Washington the GCC states' satisfaction or concern about measures to reduce the U.S. military presence in your region?

Bisharah: I have not conveyed the GCC states' concern to Washington. Nor have I conveyed to the Americans these states' happiness because of this reduction. The reduction is due to the easing of tension in the region. The U.S. presence should balance the scale of the risks threatening the region. Since this scale is declining, it is natural to proportionally reduce the number of U.S. and Western ships and presence in general. This presence resulted from escalating threats; it did not cause the escalation. As the threats are declining it is logical to reduce this presence accordingly.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the level of the current U.S. presence the level which the GCC states want at this stage?

Bisharah: The GCC states did not call for the fleets' presence. But this war has rules. The Iraq-Iran war has caused major complications—namely threats aimed at international shipping, especially Kuwaiti exports—which led to such a presence, which did not take place in response to a written appeal but rather in response to the cries of pain from the region because of the war. It is logical for the U.S. military presence to be reduced when such cries of pain ease. There is nothing like an integrated plan between the GCC states and the United States.

AL-HAWADITH: What prompted you to say in a press interview that you expected a gradual letup in Iranian attacks on shipping?

Bisharah: We have entered the phase of the beginning of the end to this war. I believe that attacks on shipping in international waterways will decline. The war has begun to ebb. It has also begun to shrink in terms of destructiveness and severity. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you have any indications of Iran possibly agreeing to negotiate an end to the war?

Bisharah: I do not see any signs of Iran accepting Security Council Resolution 598. However, I do see signs of the war itself losing its vitality. Due to exhaustion, as well as international and regional factors, the war has lost its glitter and the ability to continue.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the time appropriate for the UN Security Council to impose an arms embargo on Iran?

Bisharah: The time is appropriate to implement Security Council Resolution 598. How can this resolution be implemented? We would leave this matter to the Security Council's five permanent member states. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Let me ask you once again: Does the GCC believe that the time is appropriate to impose an arms embargo on Iran?

Bisharah: Frankly, I do not know what is happening now regarding contacts between the capitals of the five states on this particular issue. All that I know is that there is a desire that the [UN] secretary general should be given more time.

AL-HAWADITH: What is your opinion of this desire?

Bisharah: If it means that such a desire would eventually secure a cease-fire, I would support it. But if it was mere tactics for the purpose of procrastination, I believe it would be improper for us to stray from the crux of the issue.

AL-HAWADITH: And who is to decide on this?

Bisharah: The permanent member states and the secretary general.

AL-HAWADITH: There have been contacts between the GCC states and the Soviets; the most recent was the visit made to Moscow by the Saudi foreign minister. According to your information, what is the Soviets' stand? Are they now willing to accept the draft resolution stipulating an arms embargo against Iran?

Bisharah: In view of the contacts, it seems that the Soviet Union's stand has developed a great deal. But there is a difference in views and about timing. There are those who stress the need to give more time to the secretary general to express the international community's will toward implementing the resolution. The nonpermanent members in the council should also be given more time to examine this issue. If this is a means of achieving the objective of implementing the resolution, I believe it would be beneficial. But if it is for the purpose of postponement, the permanent member states must then implement what the [UN] Charter has committed them to do, namely to maintain international security and stability.

AL-HAWADITH: What did the Soviet tell you when you asked them to clarify their position?

Bisharah: The Soviets said that they would seek unanimity on implementing the Security Council resolution.

AL-HAWADITH: And did they assure you that they were ready to back the plan to impose an arms embargo against Iran?

Bisharah: I cannot say that they said that clearly or vaguely. But they said: We, as a great state shouldering responsibilities, confirm that we will not abandon our responsibility. I will leave you to interpret the statement. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Both the Americans and the Soviets do not want Iraq to resume the tankers war. What is the GCC states' opinion?

Bisharah: I do not think that eliminating the tankers war, which we have been witnessing since 1984, would lead to stability and security. I believe it is one of the war's complications. The important thing is how to handle the war directly and put a stop to it on both sides.

AL-HAWADITH: Iraq says that hitting Iranian tankers is within its legitimate rights in its declared war against Iran. Do you support Iraq's position?

Bisharah: True. This falls within war action. What Iraq is saying is that hitting Iranian ships in certain areas is part of daily war operations. As for hitting the GCC states' tankers, this has nothing to do with daily military operations. There is a difference. I am not saying this in defense of Iraq. But Iraq's attacks on Iranian ships are part of the military operations between the two countries. As for Iran's attacks on Kuwaiti, Saudi, or other ships, they are not part of military operations in this war. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It has been said that Iraq is alarmed by the rapprochement between Iran and the GCC states. It considers that such a rapprochement is taking place at Iraq's expense. Have the Iraqis expressed their alarm?

Bisharah: The Gulf states are responsible states which know about diplomatic work, diplomatic channels, rights, duties, and responsibilities. They would not do anything that would harm Iraq or increase tension. In addition, they would not do anything outside the framework of Arab consensus. Nor would they do anything that would harm security and stability requirements in the Gulf region. Thus, contacts with Iran are only aimed at finding outlets so that the Iraq-Iran war can be dealt with and tension in the region can be eased.

AL-HAWADITH: There was an idea to hold a meeting between the Iranian foreign minister and the GCC states' foreign ministers. Is this still a valid notion?

Bisharah: No. And there are no notions. There are contacts that have not yet determined the nature of the working mechanism. Such contacts have been continuing for some time. They have led to the elimination of a great deal of misunderstanding.

AL-HAWADITH: The Iranians said that the Omani foreign minister had suggested to the Iranian foreign minister that a meeting be held between him and the GCC ministers. Was the Omani minister talking on his own account or on behalf of the GCC ministers?

Bisharah: It was the Riyadh summit which authorized the UAE to continue contacts it had already begun in order to both ease and eliminate tension. In fact we have not reached a stage that would allow us to talk about a mechanism such as this.

AL-HAWADITH: Does this mean that such a meeting is no longer a possibility?

Bisharah: Not in the near future.

AL-HAWADITH: Let us return to your visit to Washington. What have you requested from the Americans? And what have they requested from you? Have you agreed on anything in particular?

Bisharah: The aim of my visit is to explain the situation in the Gulf region within the framework of the GCC state's vision, and also to talk to the Senate, the House of Representatives, and media officials, as well as the U.S. Administration, so there can be understanding of the situation in the region and of the GCC'S policy. It is also aimed at informing officials of our viewpoint regarding ways of ending the war and easing tension. There is no secret. What really concerns us is for the U.S. stand on the Iraq-Iran war to be in line with security and stability requirements and supported by the legislative side, that is, the Senate. It also concerns us that U.S. policy in the Gulf should result from public unanimity and enjoy the support of the two main parties, the Democratic and Republican Parties. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Have you discussed with the Americans the coordination of security matters between the United States and the GCC?

Bisharah: The Gulf states are seeking to safeguard their security and stability by themselves and within their own resources.

AL-HAWADITH: But you have met with a number of Pentagon officials, including Deputy Secretary of Defense Michael Armitage. [name as published]

Bisharah: Obviously we have discussed the issue generally; but I will not tell you what we have discussed. I am not in a position to divulge what we have discussed, so do not expect me to. But the fact is that the Gulf states are heading toward self-reliance, which requires time.

AL-HAWADITH: And will the GCC states provide the Americans with military facilities?

Bisharah: This is something between the Gulf states and the United States. There is nothing new. But what is meant by facilities? Bases?

AL-HAWADITH: It is being reported that military facilities include air cover and the use of bases by U.S. forces, but not the establishment of U.S. bases in the Gulf states.

Bisharah: We will not reach a stage at which we would think of establishing U.S. bases. We are at the beginning of eliminating risks. And be assured that the Gulf states will not embark on anything that would increase tension. These states are very aware, cautious, and patient.

AL-HAWADITH: In view of the Congress' refusal to respond to Gulf security demands, such as the purchase of arms, have the Americans assured you that such a matter would be improved in the future?

Bisharah: There is understanding of this matter and also of the GCC states' legitimate needs and requirements so that they will be able to stand on their own feet to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

AL-HAWADITH: Do the Soviets now have a political foothold to exploit this drawback in U.S.-Gulf relations, especially as there is an improvement in Soviet relations with the GCC states at both bilateral and collective levels?

Bisharah: Yes, there is an improvement, which has resulted from the Soviet Union's understanding of the nature of these states as well as the nature of the GCC. Relations between the Soviets and the GCC states are very simple in the sense that they are not complicated because there are no complications, debt problems, or problems involving arms or expelled advisers. They are easy relations and are not complicated. Because the GCC states are interested in them just as the Soviet Union is, these relations are improving since it has shown more understanding of the GCC states' circumstances.

AL-HAWADITH: And do you believe there is U.S.-Soviet competition or understanding in the Gulf region at present?

Bisharah: There is no competition. There is a kind of understanding that the current situation is not normal and that efforts within an international framework should be made to return the situation to normal. That is why contacts are being made within the Security Council.

AL-HAWADITH: During your visit have you discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict with the Americans, especially in view of the uprising in the occupied territories?

Bisharah: Yes. I frankly told them that prescribing simple remedies and tranquilizers for such a complex problem is futile. I said that the beneficial thing would be a fundamental remedy, namely to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to accept an international framework to secure a solution to the problem in all its aspects. I told them that the Gulf people, despite the circumstances of the Iraq-Iran war, do realize that their stability and security are linked to the Middle East problem.

AL-HAWADITH: Obviously you know of the elements contained in the new U.S. initiative concerning the Middle East. How would you assess it? And does it stand a chance of success?

Bisharah: It is similar to the proverb: "He can't see the forest for the trees." The truth is that the United States' problem is its firm link with Israel. It does not want to face reality. The principal key is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is what the United States should search for. But if it is searching for Sulayman's ring, it will not find it in tranquilizers; but rather in the principal key I have mentioned.

AL-HAWADITH: And do the GCC states support the idea of transitional procedures along the lines of autonomy contained in the U.S. proposals?

Bisharah: There are those who know more about this issue than us. But we support Arab unanimity, a substantial part of which was achieved at the Amman summit. As for such tranquilizers, they are futile.

AL-HAWADITH: Do the GCC states want to separate U.S.-Gulf relations and U.S. stands on the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Bisharah: In my contacts with the Americans in Washington, I said that security in the Gulf is linked to a large extent with a peaceful, honorable, and just solution to the Middle East problem. There can be no security in the Gulf without resolving the Palestinian problem.

AL-HAWADITH: But you personally told us in a previous interview that "the Arab-Israeli conflict is a long conflict that has its own philosophy, history, and rules..." and that your demands were "not to involve the GCC states' situation in the Arab-Israeli conflict," stressing the need to set aside the situation in the Gulf.

Bisharah: What I said was in a different context. When the GCC states want to purchase arms for the purpose of defending themselves and safeguarding their security, such legitimacy must not be lost because of purely local-U.S. factors. This was what I meant. I am one of those people who maintains that we will never be able to sleep comfortably in our beds as long as the Palestinian people are still homeless, lost, desperate, and forgotten. This is not the philosophy of the GCC alone; it is a personal conviction as well.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Lebanese people? U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz excluded Lebanon from his tour of the states directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict. What is your opinion of this thoughtlessness, and do you see any justification for it?

Bisharah: I do not know why Secretary Shultz did not visit Lebanon. As for the GCC states, it is the opposite: The recent statement launched an appeal to the Lebanese people urging them to preserve their national unity, security, and territorial integrity. It also supported Lebanon's endeavors aimed at ridding itself of the Israeli presence in the south and achieving national unity. This is in addition to financial support. The GCC states provide Lebanon with substantial aid, since they always have a sense of responsibility.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Reconciliation Message to Al-Asad

JN061412 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 3 Mar 88 pp 1, 19

[By 'Assaf 'Abbud]

[Text] Damascus—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the attainment of Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, handed the message to the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis during their meeting last Sunday. PLO representative in Tunisia Hakam Bal'awi attended this meeting.

Informed Arab and Palestinian sources in Damascus told AL-ITTIHAD that the recent meeting in Tunis held on the sidelines of the seven-member Arab committee between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and PLO Political Deparment head Faruq Qaddumi and Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and that this meeting was held within the framework of the Algerian efforts aimed at achieving reconciliation between Syria and the PLO.

AL-TADAMUN Interviews Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis

PM071335 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 5 Mar 88 p 18, 19

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Hamidah Na'na' in Tunis; date not specified]

[Text] AL-TADAMUN has met with Yasir 'Arafat in his office in Tunis since the uprising to talk about developments in both the Palestinian and Arab arenas. A few moments before the interview began, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was answering a telephone call at 1 am. The caller was Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman, PLO representative in Washington, who told 'Arafat that with a view to closing the mission's office the United States would not grant Zuhdi al-Tarazi, head of the Palestinian UN mission, residence on U.S. territory.

Yasir 'Arafat's answer was clear: "Well, let them try that. Tell the Americans that if they want to close the PLO's office at the United Nations, the PLO will find a way to rehabilitate the revolution within the framework of the international organization, via the delegation of any Arab state. But if they use this weapon, for our part, we will work toward expelling Israel from the United Nations. The Americans know we are capable of doing this. And if Israel is expelled, it will never be able to reenter the international organization, even via the United States."

Abu 'Ammar put the receiver down and looked at those around him and confidently said: What is your opinion? And what is AL-TADAMUN's opinion? The interview started from this point:

[Na'na'] Israel blew up the return ship at Limassol port before it could set sail. After that you stated that the Cairo Declaration, to which the PLO committed itself, namely, to confine its operations to the occupied territories, is not binding on the PLO alone, but on the other party, that is, Israel, as well. Are we to understand from this statement that you will reply to Israel in practical terms?

['Arafat] I have sent a message to President Husni Mubarak in which I said that patience has limits. And since President Mubarak was a witness to the Cairo Declaration, I informed him that the declaration is not binding on one party alone, that is the PLO; it is binding on the other party as well. If the other party is not committed, we must reconsider our calculations.

[Na'na'] Can we say the possibility of a return ship's setting sail, carrying expelled Palestinians toward their land, has ended, and that Israel was able to frustrate it by blowing up the ship at Limassol? Has the idea now been canceled completely?

['Arafat] The journey toward our territories has not failed. Nor has it been canceled. In fact it has achieved at least 70 percent of its objectives:

First: Such an operation has emphasized that the Palestinians can use a right granted to them by international law, that is, the right to return—the right that world Zionism and the United States have tried to overlook for so long. The world's consciences and memories have once again begun to remember this right and reconsider the stand of those who want to deny our people such a right.

Second: The Palestinians, and this is very important, are determined to realize their national rights in full, including their right to return, using all methods and means.

Third: Delaying the sailing of the return ship by Israel has unmasked for the world the ugly face of both Israel and the U.S. Administration, which helped Israel in pressuring ship owners to cancel the contract concluded with us and not to allow us to charter ships. This has also exposed Israeli terrorism even further in view of the violation of the sovereignty of an independent state, that is, Cyprus, since Israeli frogmen blew up the ship in Cypriot territorial waters.

Fourth: The operation carried out by Israel had a positive impact on our people inside [the occupied territories] and Israeli society itself.

Fifth: The confusion of the Israeli leadership was crystal clear concerning the event. They lost their nerve and that is why they behaved with such thoughtlessness.

Sixth: The operation of the return ship has reflected the extent of world sympathy, at all levels, with the Palestinian people and their right to return to their land. Such sympathy was clear in the large gathering of world figures, religious, political, unionist, and press, who shared that event with the PLO, as well as in the statement issued by the UN Committee 23.

[Na'na'] You have used a phrase of important significance, namely, "the use of every means in order to return." Do you mean sea and land means and am I to understand that the return ship will set sail once again?

['Arafat] Yes. We will certainly set sail once again. We will use every other means to exercise our right to return to our land. And our means are in abundance.

[Na'na'] When will the "return ship" set sail?

['Arafat] When the Palestinian leadership decides so. Shamir and Peres must not think that destroying the ship can abort or delay a Palestinian nationalist plan in the days of Palestinian stones.

[Na'na'] The Palestinian leadership issued a decision to the Palestinian people inside urging them to boycott U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his visit to Israel. Does Shultz carry with him a new U.S. plan that is not in line with PLO objectives? And has the United States presented a plan containing specific points since the uprising began?

['Arafat] I would like to point out that we do not issue decisions from the outside to the inside. We work in coordination with our brothers inside the occupied territories. We are one unit that makes moves and suitable plans in view of events. As for U.S. plans, so far the Americans have offered us nothing but plans perpetuating the enslavement of the Palestinian people. We have fixed principles which we will never abandon. One is that those who rejected Camp David would never settle for something less. Our people have been able to stand fast during 3 years of shelling, death, starvation, and thirst. These people, men, women, and children, are bravely confronting the Israeli-U.S. war machine with Palestinian stones. Having committed themselves to all this struggle, our people would not accept just mere crumbs.

[Na'na'] A meeting was held between Cluverius, deputy U.S. consul in Jerusalem, and a number of Palestinian figures from the inside to pave the way for Shultz' tour. He presented some proposals. What are the nature of these proposals?

['Arafat] Yes. This meeting was held with 10 Palestinian figures. The essence of their reply to proposals presented was that the Palestinian people would accept nothing but the elimination of occupation via an international conference attended by all parties as well as the Security Council permanent members. Our concept of an international conference is now well known to the United States. And our people will not accept the idea of someone other than the PLO talking on their behalf. The Palestinian figures emphasized this matter to the deputy U.S. consul. Our brothers inside are committed to what has been agreed, namely, not to meet on their own with Shultz inside the occupied territories.

[Na'na'] Does this mean there is no difference in viewpoints between the PLO's leadership outside and the leadership's committees inside?

['Arafat] We are one body, one people, one revolution, one leadership, one decision, one will, and one destiny in the face of Israeli occupation. It is the masses now confronting the Israeli enemy which confronted the Zionist enemy during the Beirut siege and it is the masses which resisted and stood fast in Sabra and Shatila despite 3 years of siege and four massacres. We are proud of the unity among the masses of our people everywhere.

[Na'na'] If Shultz asked to meet with you, what would you say to him now in the current circumstances which the Palestinian cause is experiencing?

['Arafat] I would simply request from him that his country should honor the UN resolution concerning the Palestinian people, especially their right to self-determination, their right to return to their land, and their right to establish an independent Palestinian state.

I would also tell him: Our people will never forget the lack of credibility in U.S. promises which Philip Habib presented to us in Beirut in 1982, since the outcome was massacres against civilians in the two camps of Sabra and Shatila. I would tell him: Our people will never forget that. I will certainly remind him of an axiom the U.S. Administration does not want to understand, namely, that there can be no progress or peace in the region without endorsing the non-negotiable rights of the Palestinian people.

[Na'na'] What are the outlines of the plan or the proposals Cluverius presented to the Palestinian figures inside the occupied territories?

['Arafat] They are the same plans published by the press: To put a stop on the uprising, to hold elections for a legislative council for the West Bank and Gaza Strip within 6 months, to form joint Israeli-Jordanian security patrols, and then to begin negotiations to secure a solution. But the way of securing a solution has not been specified. The Palestinian figures asked him about the international conference but he talked of a formal international conference, nothing more than a ceremonial

opening session. They also asked him about the right to self-determination and his answer was: Do not waste your time talking about the right to self-determination. (Here Abu 'Ammar was extremely angry; he went on to say:) They consider the right to self-determination a waste of time. They want a formal international conference that has no veto right or the right to impose solutions. They are excluding us as an organization and are talking of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for which the PLO can name whomsoever it wishes.

[Na'na'] There has been limited progress in the U.S. stand on the last point...

['Arafat] No. This is untrue. We were offered something much better than this in 1977. In 1977 the offer they made to us was that negotiations could be held with Israel via a joint Arab delegation, in which the PLO would be represented. This was clearly contained in an Egyptian-U.S. statement. In 1977 the Palestinian flag was raised for 24 hours over the Mena House Hotel in Cairo. The PLO was given the right to attend with an independent delegation, but I did not accept that. I will not accept today what I rejected in the past. I will never accept any plan for a solution in which noes from the United States and Israel would be imposed on us. The U.S. noes are known: no to the PLO, no to the right to self-determination, no to an independent state, and no to an independent delegation.

[Na'na'] If they openly requested that the PLO recognize Resolution 242 today as well as the subsequent outcome, that is the recognition of Israel, would you accept?

['Arafat] With regard to UN resolutions, we have a national council that has its specific program. We have said we are ready to recognize all UN resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338. We recognize and endorse international legitimacy because we consider it to be an indivisible entity. But Israel and the United States want us to accept one UN resolution and reject another, exactly like they did when they accepted Clause 2 of Resolution 181 and rejected Clause 1 which stipulates a Palestinian state.

[Na'na'] In your opinion, why does Israel refuse to recognize the PLO as the representative of the people confronting it with stones and who brandish the name of the PLO?

['Arafat] The United States has corrupted its spoiled child.

[Na'na'] Israeli practices in the occupied territories have been escalated. Demonstrators are still confronting them with stones. Would you change the method of confrontation if the severity of the Israeli onslaught increased? And would you resort to the use of arms?

['Arafat] The Israeli military clique insists on escalating crimes against our people and masses, using every repressive means. They have used some internationally banned arms, namely, mustard gas, and live ammunition against unarmed people, children, and women. They also issued orders to break hands, legs, and bones with a view to deterring demonstrators and crippling them. The use of gas has caused numerous pregnant Palestinian women to abort. Such ugly practices were never even committed by the Nazis. I wonder: Is there an Israeli-U.S. decision aimed at annihilating an entire generation of our people. It is a massacre in every sense of the word. As for changing the method of confrontation, talking about it is linked to the developments in the situation. [Na'na'] There are those who describe this phase as similar to that which the Algerian people experienced before the Evian talks. What is your opinion of this? And are you optimistic or pessimistic?

['Arafat] The Israeli military clique insists on escalating its crimes, using every means. Despite all this I believe this Palestinian phase is very similar to that during which the Algerian people said their sole representative was the liberation front. Today the Palestinian people are telling both the world and the enemy: The PLO is our sole legitimate representative. Revolutions do not correspond fully, but they are similar with regard to many historic turns.

PLO's Qaddumi on U.S. Proposals, Arab Ties

JN070932 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
5 Mar 88 p 19

[By 'Abd al-Karim Abu al-Nasr]

[Text] Paris—In an exclusive and comprehensive interview, Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, declared that the PLO agrees to a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and a Palestinian delegation. He revealed the substance of the new U.S. proposals and asserted it is inconceivable that Jordan would accept them and that the Arab stand on these proposals is linked to the Palestinians' stand toward them.

In an interview held with him in Paris, Abu al-Lutf said Shultz is trying to cast doubts on the Soviet stand toward the Palestinians. He said the Palestinian people's revolution will continue in various forms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the situation will not return to what it was in the past. Abu al-Lutf confirmed the Paris date-lined report published on 3 March in AL-QABAS that there is a secret Arab decision to include him in all the delegations that will visit the capitals of the five Big Powers in support of the Palestinian people's revolution. He said that at present there is no coordination between Syria and the PLO, and the PLO is holding contacts to convene an Arab summit as soon as possible.

AL-QABAS interviewed Abu al-Lutf after his arrival in Paris for talks with French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond on developments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

First Abu al-Lutf asserted that the PLO did not directly receive from the U.S. Administration the text of the new U.S. proposals, but obtained the text through an Arab side. Abu al-Lutf revealed the substance of the U.S. proposals and the PLO stand on the proposals, saying: The U.S. proposals do not bring anything new, but bring to mind the Reagan plan, the Palestinian autonomy plan, and the attempt to have an international umbrella and exclude the PLO from the talks. Such ideas are rejected in part and parcel.

Clearly the Reagan Administration is seeking through its current diplomatic efforts to halt and contain the Palestinian people's blessed uprising by proposing elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip followed by a transitional stage of self-rule followed by an international conference that will determine the length of the transitional stage for self-rule. I believe the United States will turn that transitional stage into a permanent stage. Thus the United States is once again putting forward proposals incompatible with the resolutions of the United Nations and the international community to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and is trying to deny the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

These U.S. proposals proceed from a mistaken premise that does not take the facts into consideration, facts that show there can be no peace in the area unless the just Palestinian demands are achieved through a genuine international peace conference in which the PLO participates on an equal footing with the other parties and with equal rights. Such a conference should be held within the framework of the United Nations and with the participation of the five permanent member states of the Security Council. In short, through their arrogance of power Israel and the United States are trying to impose solutions contrary to justice, freedom, sovereignty for the Palestinian people, and Arab rights in general.

Answering a question on his view of and information on Jordan's position on the U.S. proposals, Abu al-Lutf said: Fraternal Jordan understands well the U.S. game and in its official statements has officially avoided giving rise to great hopes in Shultz' proposals. The Reagan Administration is approaching the end of its term. It is weak, feeble, and incapable of making a step toward peace. As it has failed to make such a step in the past it will not be able to make such a peaceful step in an election year.

The Reagan administration has not changed its hostile stand toward the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. It is going ahead in its measures to close the offices of the PLO mission in the United Nations and persists in its bias toward Israel and rejection of the international conference. In the face of all that, it is inconceivable that Jordan would accept such U.S. proposals and conditions. Moreover, we are confident about the stand of the Arabs in general on the U.S. proposals. We are regularly consulting with our Arab brothers, including the Jordanians. The Arab stand on the U.S. proposals is linked to the Palestinian stand on the proposals. If the Palestinians reject the U.S. proposals the Arabs will reject them. We reject these proposals.

We said to the head of the PLO Political Department that Shultz is trying to give the impression to some Arab and international parties that Soviet officials do not object to the new U.S. proposals. Is this correct?

He answered: We are accustomed to contradictions in the U.S. stands and the proposals which the United States presents to the parties concerned with the Middle East problem. We affirm that the USSR has not changed its stand or policy toward the Palestinian issue and Arab rights. The USSR will not go back on its friendly stand in support of Palestinian demands nor will it concede on its concern to convene a true international peace conference. This was expressed in Soviet Foreign Minister Sheverdnadze's message to UN Security General Perez de Cuellar. The Soviet foreign minister called for embarking on urgent consultations among the five major powers to reach an understanding on a mechanism for the international conference. The USSR supports the PLO and the Palestinian people's national, legitimate rights. Shultz is trying to cast doubts about the stands of fraternal and friendly countries. Facts contradict with Shultz' statements to this effect. The Reagan administration knows full well, although it does not admit it openly, that the national, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, not only the legitimate rights, are the basis for any just and comprehensive solution to the conflict.

Abu al-Lutf disclosed in this regard that the Reagan administration has recently presented different and contradictory proposals to Egypt and Jordan. This was clear "in our talks with the two parties."

We asked Abu al-Lutf if the PLO has really decided to agree on holding a meeting between Shultz and a Palestinian delegation, representing the PLO.

He said: Shultz' tour aims, of course, at ending the uprising and finding a capitulatory solution, which we unequivocally reject. This, however, does not mean we are not ready to meet and talk with U.S. officials or with officials from other permanent members of the Security Council. We are ready to meet with the Americans to inform them of the reality of our stands.

If the Reagan administration is really ready to contact the Palestinian people, a Palestinian delegation can meet Shultz. This delegation is authorized by the PLO and consists of leading elements from inside and outside the occupied territory. The meeting should take place in any fraternal, friendly, or neutral country. However, we have not so far received any U.S. response to our stand, which we cannot concede.

We said to Abu al-Lutf: Has the uprising resulted in improving relations betwen the PLO and Syria? Is there coordination between the two sides?

He answered: Thanks to the uprising, a new atmosphere was created in Syrian-Palestinian relations. I recently met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the periphery of the meetings of the Arab seven-member committee. We discussed developments in a fraternal spirit. We tried to pave the road for the continuation of such meetings between the PLO and the brothers in Syria. However, we must say there is no coordination between Syria and the PLO on what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza nor on regional developments. There is coordination within the framework of the Arab seven-member committee.

Abu al-Lutf confirmed in this respect the report published in AL-QABAS yesterday in a dispatch from Paris that the Arab countries have adopted a secret decision to include Abu al-Lutf in all Arab delegations which will visit the capitals of the major powers this month to guarantee large-scale international support for the West Bank and Gaza revolution.

Abu al-Lutf said he expects the U.S. authorities to reject the Arab request. He added: As Arabs, we should put pressure on the United States to remove the obstacles placed by Washington.

Abu al-Lutf called for convening an Arab summit as soon as possible. He said the atmosphere is now suitable to convene such a conference. But, he added, a clear agenda headed by the Palestinian issue and the uprising inside the occupied territory should be prepared for that summit. Such a conference should make available all ways of success and continuation for this uprising and the Palestinian people which are offering hundreds of victims and martyrs. We are currently holding contacts to convene this Arab summit as soon as possible, he said.

We asked Abu al-Lutf if there is an Arab dereliction toward the Palestinian people and the uprising.

He said: If we take into consideration the difficult and tough circumstances facing the Arab nation, we will try to find excuses for Arab dereliction. The uprising needs political, media, and popular support. The masses in the occupied territory also need physical support. Arab movement is slow. This explains the dereliction. Therefore, the Arab seven-member committee decided to dispatch delegations from the PLO and the Arab League General Secretariat to discuss this issue with Arab officials in a fraternal and constructive spirit. This Arab tour will take place this month.

With regard to the future of the uprising, Abu al-Lutf said: We are neither analysts nor historians of this uprising. We are in its center. It is the product of years of tribulation. It is comprehensive for all the Palestinian people. It consists of the children who led this uprising with their precious stones. The uprising is continuous and will extend to the future. It will take many forms and patterns. The situation will not go back as before. This conflagration is the result of explosive factors which interacted within the framework of the continuous action of the Palestinian revolution. This conflagration will interact and continue until the Palestinian people achieve their objectives and establish on the ground a Palestinian state. The repercussions of the uprising on Israeli society will increase daily. This means that time is in the interest of the Palestinian people, their armed revolution, and sacred uprising.

We asked Abu al-Lutf: You discussed a plan with EC Chairman Leo Tindemans for placing the West Bank and Gaza Strip under international trusteeship in the first half of 1987. Tindemans also discussed this plan with a number of Arab and foreign officials. Is the international trusteeship plan still seriously considered, and is it applicable?

Abu al-Lutf confirmed this and said: We raised this issue for the first time in 1975. The UN committee for the Palestinian people's exercise of their national legitimate rights was formed then on the basis of the Israeli forces' complete withdrawal and placing these territories under the administration of the United Nations and the Arab League for a short period of time. This trusteeship plan for the West Bank and Gaza is still under consideration. We have recently carried out contacts in this regard. Within this framework we called for the presence of UN forces to safeguard our people in the occupied territory, provided that these forces are responsible for the administrative supervision of the occupied territories after a complete Israeli withdrawal. The United States used the veto to prevent the issuance of a UN resolution stipulating the dispatch of international forces to the occupied territories. The Americans even rejected the dispatch of UN observers there.

We asked Abu al-Lutf: Is there a serious intention to proclaim civil disobedience in the occupied territories? He answered: Our people there are considering this. However, the issue of carrying out civil disobedience is left to the local leaderships. They know the appropriate circumstances for any step. They take the measures they deem appropriate in complete coordination and cooperation with the PLO in its capacity as the people's leader and sole legitimate representative. I firmly believe that as is customary for them, our people inside the occupied homeland will adopt the necessary step and measures to gurantee the continuation of the uprising in various forms.

The last question was on the U.S. Administration's decision to close the office of the PLO UN mission and the Arab and PLO stand on this move. Abu al-Lutf said: This issue is no longer linked to the Arab or Palestinian stand. This issue is now the specialty of the United Nations as a whole because this would mean that the United States has violated its international commitments and the headquarters agreement it concluded with the United Nations. This concerns every UN member state. Earlier this week the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution stipulating the referral of this issue to the International Court of Justice. We will follow up

this issue with the U.S. courts. We will not let the Reagan administration decide and act by itself. We will followup this issue inside and outside the U.S. arena.

Abu al-Lutf met with French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond at noon yesterday. They held a detailed discussion of the developments of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza, and the possibilities for extending larger international support to the Palestinian people's uprising. This was the first meeting between Raimond and Abu al-Lutf since the uprising.

Yesterday Abu al-Lutf attended a dinner banquet held in his honor by the France Forum—the Arab Countries, which is headed by former minister and De Gaulle deputy (Yves Guina).

PLO's Al-Wazir Terms U.S. Initiative 'New Plot'

JN081802 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian armed forces, told our radio today that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had received an official invitation from Jordanian King Husayn to visit Amman for consultations and talks about the current situation in the Middle East. Abu Jihad, who arrived in Amman last night, added that preparations are under way to fix the date of the visit and make the necessary arrangements.

Abu Jihad attacked the U.S. initiative and called it a new plot aimed at rescuing and protecting the Israeli entity after it was shaken by the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories. He said the U.S. initiative deliberately ignored the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and included the U.S. stand which insists on the three noes, which are no to self-determination, no to an independent state, and no to the PLO.

Commenting on the development of Palestinian-Syrian relations, the Palestinian official stressed the PLO's desire to restore normal relations. He added the PLO is awaiting the Syrian Government's reply to a Palestinian delegation's visit to Damascus following a series of side meetings recently held by the two sides in Tunis.

Abu Jihad is in Amman to preside over the Palestinian side to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories. This committee will begin its meetings in Amman today. This committee has recently received $19 million from Saudi Arabia. This is the second and third and last installment of the Saudi contribution for 1986.

'Atallah 'Atallah 'Prepared' To Meet Shultz

JN081413 Amman AL-QUDS in English 7 Mar 88 p 16

[Editorial: "Viewpoint of the Reform Movement Over Shultz' Recent Visit to the Middle East"]

[Text] General Brother Abu al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], in an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS, at his Amman house said: "I am quite prepared to meet with the American Secretary of State Mr. Shultz, if Mr. Shultz in turn, is prepared to meet with me.

Brother Abu al-Za'im denounced Mr. 'Arafat's call for the Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories to boycott any meetings with Mr. Shultz. Shultz arrived in Jeursalem last Thursday, for a five day visit to hold talks with the parties involved in the Middle East conflict (including the Palestinans).

Brother Abu al-Za'im pointed out saying: "It is the responsibility of the Palestinians, as well as the Palestinian leadership to listen to the thoughts and proposals of the American Administration, and to hold a serious dialogue (not only with the Americans, but with any powerful international party, which could push ahead the peace process)."

Abu al-Za'im, in the interview said: "Our Reform Movement has quite a good number of supporters in the occupied territories, mainly among the elite mindful Palestinians, who are awaiting our instructions for dealing with any developments, including meeting with Shultz. But, we are keen not to cause any confusion among the Palestinians people at this delicate stage."

He placed far too much emphasis over a specific point namely: "We are at all times ready to take part in any peace negotiations through an international conference by a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation, this formula largely favoured by the majority of our Palestinian people and our Arab brethren at large."

Abu al-Za'im concluded: "All those concerned in the heart of the Palestinian cause affairs (principally the Palestinians) should grasp that Mr. 'Arafat in his general recent attitude is becoming more confused every day!"

Bethlehem Mayor on Meeting With Shultz

JN080834 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 88 p 3

[By Sa'd G. Hattar, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj Monday said a "suggestion" was still valid for Palestinian pesonalities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Cairo or any other Arab capital. Frayj who is slated to leave for the West Bank Tuesday following talks with Jordanian

officals here, made it clear that the suggestion was being carefully studied in coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Bethlehem mayor blamed "the absence of PLO green light," for the failure to hold a proposed meeting between Palestinian dignitaries and the U.S. secretary during his recent peace-seeking tour of the Middle East. "Shultz came to the region carrying a defined project. He met governments of the region. In what capacity we were supposed to meet him without the consent of the organisation," Frayj told the JORDAN TIMES in a telephone interview.

He said his talks with Minister of Occupied Territories Warwan Dudin and Planning Minister Tahir Kan'an covered topics related to development projects in Bethlehem.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Geneva Talks on Afghanistan Issue Continue

Noorani, Cordovez Comment

BK081635 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The UN-sponsored proximity talks on Afghanistan resumed in Geneva today. The UN representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, held a meeting with the Pakistani delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani. Earlier, Mr Cordovez held a meeting with the Kabul administration's delegation.

Asked by waiting newsmen if there was a stalemate in the talks, Mr Zain Noorani said: Does my presence here indicate a stalemate? Mr Zain Noorani said in his opinion the question as to when the agreement would be signed was not at all that important once the principles underlying the problems had been settled. He said the timeframe of the withdrawal could be adjusted in such a way that it need not delay the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. He said by now Pakistan has proved its sincerity in its constructive efforts to cooperate in resolving the problem. Pakistan expected the other side to respond in the same spirit.

Mr Zain Noorani said that with God's blessing he hoped to achieve an outcome which will not disappoint the Pakistani people. He urged all his countrymen back home to pray for a comprehensive solution of this long drawn out problem in which more than 1.2 million Afghans have sacrificed their lives. He urged that we also pray that not only will the Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan, but favorable conditions will be created for the return of 3 million Afghan refugees to their homes.

The UN representative, Mr Cordovez, was also present at the news conference. Answering a question by newsmen whether any progress has been made at the proximity talks, he replied affirmatively. He told another newsman it is not enough to merely end the stalemate, but it is imperative to enter into delicate negotiations on the important aspects of the problem.

Proximity Talks Resume 9 Mar

BK090352 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The proximity talks on Afghanistan will continue in Geneva today. Mr Diego Cordovez, the UN representative on Afghanistan, held a meeting with the Pakistan delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani yesterday. Mr Cordovez met earlier with the Kabul administration's delegation.

At the resumed sitting of the proximity talks, Pakistan is reported to have emphasized starting work on the second aspect [of setting up a transitional government] to synchronize it with the first aspect of the withdrawal of Soviet troops to achieve a comprehensive setlement.

Safdar Ahad, Radio Pakistan's special representative, said that the two sides have reportedly outlined their respective positions on the proposed four instruments. The loose ends in all four instruments are to be tied up before the documents will be considered ready for signature. A positive response to Pakistan's proposals is still awaited from the other side. Pakistan believes that in the interests of reaching a comprehensive settlement the other side will soon realize the reasonableness of Pakistan's request.

Cordovez: Talks 'Complicated'

LD082043 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Afghan and Pakistani delegations continued their talks in Geneva this morning through the mediation of Diego Cordovez, special envoy of the UN secretary general, on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. Cordovez this morning carried out separate talks with delegations from the two countries and later told journalists the talks were complicated. He did not elaborate further.

Algeria

Sudanese Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD061308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Excerpts] At the invitation of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi arrived in Algeria today on a 2-day working and friendly visit.

He was received at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, and by members of the Political Bureau.

At the airport's VIP hall, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the following:

[Begin recording] Bilateral relations between our two countries are in the best of shape. Just now, I was saying to the brother president that we are grateful that he received us under different circumstances when we opposed the defunct regime in Sudan. In fact, relations between our two countries are in the best of shape. This visit seeks to develop them even more, and also seeks more cooperation within our joint Arab, Islamic, and African frameworks. This is what we hope will always be the nature of the relations between us. [end recording]

Then the presidential convoy moved to Al-Mithaq residence, where the Algerian-Tunisian political talks are expected to take place. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Discussed

LD071442 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, 7/3/88 (APS)—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, president of the Council of Ministers in the Republic of Sudan, arrived Sunday here for a two day working and friendship visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid.

Soon after his arrival, political talks chaired by the head of state and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi were held here.

In the evening, a working session gathered the host of Algeria and prime minister, Abdelhamid Brahimi, in presence of the two delegations. On this occasion, the two sides examined possibilities of the reinforcement of bilateral cooperation in all fields in order to organize economic complementarily.

In this context, the two sides defined the potentialities of immediate actions likely to develop in the short term relations between the two countries. They also agreed on the creation of a joint commission that will be entrusted with the follow up and the evolution of economic and cultural relations. In addition, the two delegations agreed on the elaboration of a first agreement that will include all sectors of activity and that will be signed today.

It is worth recalling that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who was welcomed by President Chadli Bendjedid, underlined in a statement to the press the excellence of relations between the two countries. He pointed out that this visit is aimed at developing bilateral cooperation in an Arab Islamic and African frame.

Al-Mahdi Comments, Departs

LD072313 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left Algiers this afternoon at the end of a 2-day friendly and working visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the delegation accompanying him were seen off by Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, who was accompanied by members of the government and diplomatic corps.

During the second day of this visit, Algerian-Sudanese political talks were resumed with a private talk between President Chadli Bendjedid and Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The talks were then expanded to encompass the members of both delegations. The Algerian delegation included: Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; El Hadi Khdiri, minister of the interior; Larbi Belkheir, head of the office of the presidency of the Republic; Mostefa Benamar, minister of education and training; and the Algerian ambassador to Sudan. The Sudanese delegation included: Dr Ma'mum Sanadah, minister of foreign affairs; Dr Ibrahim al-Amin, deputy governor of Khartoum; Ahmad Muhammad Nur, head of the Arab States Section at the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim, head of the Presidential Office; and the Sudanese ambassador to Algeria.

This afternoon at the Al-Mithaq residence, an Algerian-Sudanese cooperation protocol was signed by Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, on behalf of the Algerian side, and by Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The protocol provides for the establishment of an Algerian-Sudanese mixed commission for industrial and agricultural cooperation and a framework for bilateral cooperation in the sphere of trade and its consolidation.

The Algerian-Sudanese talks began yesterday at the Al-Mithaq residence under the joint chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. They were followed by other talks between Abdelhamid Brahimi and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. These talks viewed

various aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways and means of consolidating this cooperation. The two sides agreed to set up an Algerian-Sudanese mixed commission for expanding bilateral cooperation in all fields.

At a news conference held this afternoon at the Al-Mithaq residence, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi evaluated the Algerian-Sudanese talks and the results reached. He said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I and my colleagues in the Sudanese delegation who have been visiting the fraternal Republic of Algeria would like to extend profound thanks and gratitude to our brothers in Algeria—President Chadli Bendjedid, his government, and the struggling brotherly Algerian people—for the warm welcome they have given us and the total response we found during our talks on issues of mutual interest. We talked about issues concerning our relations and the three links of our relations—Islamic, African, and Arab. Within these three links we reviewed our thoughts and opinions in an effort to arrive at a unified strategy in which we can cooperate in order to realize the interests of our peoples. We also reviewed the hotbeds of tension and conflict in these areas. We agreed on the need to coordinate our efforts to contain them, whether in the Arab, Islamic, or African spheres. We can say that our views were totally identical with regard to what unified strategy we should follow in these spheres, and with regard to the joint action we should take to contain the hotbeds of conflict and tension in these spheres, in the service of regional peace as well as world peace and international cooperation.

The visit was also an opportunity for us to acquaint ourselves with the achievements of the Algerian experiment in various fields. We also spoke about the Sudanese experiment and what it has achieved in terms of a movement in the interest of the Sudanese people.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that this visit enabled us to lay another stone along the path of developing bilateral relations between our two countries—Sudan and Algeria. We agreed to set up a mixed commission, whose details will be outlined in a joint statement to be issued later, and to set up a receiving mixed company, to work in the agricultural and industrial spheres in the interests of both countries and to contribute to the realization of food security. During these meetings we were also able to agree on the development of trade relations between us on the basis of our mutual interests. We believe that the mixed commission, which will meet immediately before the month of Ramadan [early May], will study all the required means for developing relations between our two countries in all the economic, trade, cultural, and technical fields. We hope that this will be the means of achieving model relations between our countries in the consolidation of the south-south relations and the consolidation of Arab relations in order to achieve more cooperation, solidarity, and unity. [end recording]

Talks were also held today at the Ministry of National Defense between Brigadier Mostefa Cheloufi, secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense, and Lieutenant General Mu'tasim al-Sarraj, deputy chief of staff of the Sudanese Army. The talks were attended by Colonel Yahya Rehhal, director of the Political Department.

Diplomatic Relations With Maldives Begin 8 Mar

LD081033 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, 8 March (APS)—The Government of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic and the Government of the Republic of the Maldive Islands agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors starting from 8 March 1988.

Shultz Tour Hastens 'Necessity' of Arab Summit

LD071129 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, 7/3/88 (APS)—The urgency of the holding of an Arab extraordinary summit proposed by President Chadli Bendjedid is an imperative necessity at a time where sinister manoeuvres with as corollary the American activism, are amplified in the Middle East in order to stifle the Palestinian revolutionary movement and impose on the area a "Pax Americana" based on a new look Camp David agreement. It is quite clear that the second tour of the American secretary of state, George Shultz, is aimed at an American diplomatic forcing which is usual with the American Administration on the eve of elections, at the setting up of a new form of separate agreements such as the Camp David ones.

Thus, what can be called "the Shultz plan" provides, according to concordant press news, an international "opening" of negotiations in April and then within six months, Israei-Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations for a transitional status of occupied territories and then from 1989 discussions that will last three years for a definite status of these territories.

A deliberate wooliness is kept on the exact nature of the international "opening" of negotiations without, as it can be noted, an explicit reference to the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the UN aegis with the full and total participation of PLO and permanent members of the UN Security Council. In truth, Washington, as well as Tel Aviv continue to oppose this conference, which is the only frame for a fair, total and lasting peace in the area. The United States persists in burying its head in the sand, refusing a participation of PLO in the negotiations process and insisting on a Palestinian-Jordanian participation.

As one can notice it, this is the same scenario as in the past and which does not even take into account the objective evolution of the situation in the Middle East which is the consequence of a large Palestinian insurrectional movement.

On another development, the Reagan administration deliberately ignores a fundamental point which is prerequisite to global negotiation, namely the total withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to the creation of their state in the West Bank and Gaza. This in addition to the future status of Jerusalem which must not remain under Israeli administration as it is the holy town of the three monotheist religions. In fact the United States voluntarily evades these essential points not only in order to relaunch the Camp David process and separate agreements but in order to deal a blow to the rise of the popular resistance in Palestine and create divisions within the Arab world and Palestinians. They also want to make commonplace the Palestinian revolution [word indistinct] and minimize its consequences at the level of the Arab nation and the world public opinion.

Briefs

Cooperation With Burundi

Algiers, 7/3/88 (APS)—An agreement of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation was signed Sunday here by vice foreign minister in charge of cooperation, Mohamed Aberkane, and the Burundian ministry [as received] of external relations, Cyprien Mbonimpa. This document provides for new forms of cooperation, mainly in the fields of public health, training and the realisation of economic and social infrastructures. New domains of cooperation have also been identified, [word indistinct] the sending of Algerian specialized cadres to Burundi. On this occasion, the two ministers expressed satisfaction about the signature of this agreement which will enable to develop bilateral cooperation. Following this signature, the Burundian minister of external relations and the delegation accompanying him left Algiers. During his stay, Cyprien Mbonimpa was audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid and Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. [Text] [*Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 7 Mar 88 LD*]

Chad

Army Clashes With Libya's Islamic Legion

AB081907 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 8 Mar 88

["Military Communique No 103" issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 8 March]

[Text] Despite the cease-fire concluded through the OAU's mediation and despite the appeals by the chairman of the ad hoc committee to abide by this cease-fire, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of international terrorism, has just given international public opinion another demonstration of his bad faith, arrogance, and desire to annex Chad. Today, 8 March 1988, a strong column of the Islamic Legion used the Sudanese province of Darfur to attack the Karfur military post. The FANT counteroffensive was devastating. Here are the results:

On the enemy side: 20 soldiers killed; 10 prisoners of war captured; 22 light weapons seized, including 2 [word indistinct]; 1 medium weapon [words indistinct] of Soviet manufacture recovered; several important documents seized. The remainder of the agressive contingent owed their salvation only to their flight toward the Sudanese border. On the FANT side: One martyr fell gloriously on the battlefront.

Once again, this new aggression demonstrates that Libya and its accomplices are working for the destabilization of our country. However, the valiant FANT are attending to the defense of the fatherland day and night.

Meningitis Outbreak Reported in Ndjamena

AB081621 Dakar PANA in English 1304 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Dakar, 8 March (PANA)—An epidemic of cerebral-spinal meningitis has been reported in Ndjamena, the Chadian capital, and the suburbs. Many patients affected by the disease have been admitted into the hospital and the Ministry of Health has taken measures to curb its spread, the country's news agency, ATP, said.

Meningitis, an inflammation of the meninges (a part of the brain), is a bacterial infectious disease which can cause a defect in the brain or spinal cord. It can easily result in death or retard mental growth. Symptoms of the disease include fever, vomiting and headaches. Researchers presently say there are difficulties in attempts to find a vaccine capable of protecting children below five years of age. The Chadian National Research Council (CNR) say, however, there is hope that by 1990, a new vaccine by the council may resolve the problem as it is capable of innoculating the children against the disease.

Egypt

'Source' Says Fedayeen Operations 'Can Recur'

NC081915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—An official diplomatic source today warned that yesterday's Palestinian fedayeen operation in southern Israel will not be the last. The source said this operation, which was aimed at securing the release of all Palestinians detained since the eruption of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab land, can recur so long as Israel continues its repressive and violent policy in the occupied territory and refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's rights.

It is to be recalled that three Palestinian fedayeen yesterday hijacked an Israeli bus and held a number of hostages, with the goal of releasing the Palestinian detainees held since the uprising erupted. An Israeli unit stormed the bus, killing the three fedayeen and three Israeli passengers.

Return of Libyan Aircraft Delayed by Weather

NC081403 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Saudi and Libyan technicians have completed their inspection and maintenance of four Libyan MiG-23 aircraft which landed in Egypt last Tuesday. Egyptian authorities provided the necessary facilities.

The four Libyan planes were scheduled to take off from the Egyptian air base for Libya this afternoon, but the take-off was delayed when bad weather conditions prevented an Egyptian transport aircraft, which was to transfer the aircraft's crew to the base, from taking off. The Egyptian transport plane will take off when weather improves.

'Abd al-Nasir 'Has Evidence' To Refute Charges

PM081315 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 88 p 1

[Jamal 'Inayat Report: "In Exclusive Statements To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Al-Khawajah: Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir Has Evidence of His Innocence of Charge"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Egyptian lawyers' leader Ahmad al-Khawajah yesterday confirmed that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir would return to Cairo on the day prosecution hearings begin in the case involving the Egypt's Revolution Organization, in which he is considered to be defendant No 2.

In his exclusive statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Al-Khawajah added that his client has evidence refuting the charge against him.

Answering a question about Khalid's awareness that he would be detained the moment he arrives in Egypt, Al-Khawajah confirmed that his client was fully aware of that, but he has confidence in the judiciary's fairness.

Regarding the reasons for Khalid's failure to return to Egypt at the beginning of the investigation, his lawyer told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: He had to know what was going on in the investigation before he could decide whether or not to return. But the blackout imposed on investigations delayed his decision to return, since he did not know what had been brought against him.

In reply to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's comment on the charge against him, the leader of Egyptian lawyers said that his client was pleased that the prosecution had withheld all charges against him except that for which he would be sent to court. He added: The prosecution has thus wasted most of the evidence given by defendant No 3.

About Khalid's relationship with defendant No 3, Ahmad 'Isam al-Din, Al-Khawajah said that his client has never talked to defendant No 3. His only link with him was that he saw him with defendant No 1, Mahmud Nur al-Din, who visited him a few times.

In reply to rumors about an assassination attempt against Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir in Yugoslavia, the leader of the Egyptian lawyers said: It is clear that the Yugoslav authorities have provided Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir with a strong guard. I can neither confirm nor deny that an assassination attempt has taken place.

About whether he will meet Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir again, Ahmad al-Khawajah said: That is always a possibility.

Liberal Party Condemns U.S. Embassy Actions

PM081633 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 29 Feb 88 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Liberal Party General Secretariat: We Reject Behavior of U.S. Embassy; Questioning of Interior Minister"]

[Excerpt] The Liberal Party General Secretariat has condemned the behavior of the U.S. Embassy in Egypt in detaining a U.S. citizen inside the embassy, interrogating him in order to obtain information concerning the Egypt's Revolution Organization, and sending him to the United States for a lie detector test.

The General Secretariat viewed this behavior by the U.S. Embassy as undermining Egypt's sovereignty on its territory.

Moreover, the General Secretariat decided to submit an interpellation to the interior minister in the People's Assembly concerning the matter.

Furthermore, the General Secretariat declared its full backing for the party Presidential Council decisions on the present ongoing dialogue between the ruling party and the other opposition parties, stressing the necessity of repealing the emergency law as a means of continuing the dialogue. [passage omitted]

Deposition by 'Egypt's Revolution' Member Cited

NC071021 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 5 Mar 88 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An AL-SAFIR correspondent has reported from Cairo that although there had been no reference to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo during the state security prosecution official investigation into the "Egypt's Revolution" case, it is a well-known fact that the Egyptian security service had no clue about the case until the U.S. Embassy supplied it with information. This information was provided by Ahmad 'Isam

al-Din (the third defendant), who contacted the U.S. Embassy through a third party and volunteered evidence in the case in return for money and residence in the United States.

During the investigation, the first defendant, Mahmud Nur al-Din, said that his brother, Ahmad 'Isam al-Din, had refused to participate in the attack on the U.S. Embassy's security staff. Asked to explain his refusal, Nur al-Din said that his brother was not enthusiastic about taking action against Americans.

"Egypt's Revolution" carried out three operations against the Israelis and only one against Americans. However, the investigation has revealed that the United States was an important factor in the organization's planning. The following depositions, made by Mahmud Nur al-Din during interrogation, prove this point:

When asked by the interrogator if he had received information from any source about the arrival of U.S. nationals in Egypt, the first defendant said:

"Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Ali, the fifth defendant in the case, provided me with some information about the 'Bright Star' maneuver and the units participating in it. I think that some of the documents seized in the case were notes which I compiled on the basis of information he provided on the 'Bright Star' drills. According to the lieutenant colonel, U.S. equipment jams Egyptian air defense radar during thse exercises, which renders it incapable of registering or monitoring any U.S. target during the exercises. This made me very upset beause many of our radar facilities are U.S.-made and supervised by U.S. experts. Ahmad 'Ali was telling me that the Americans could render these radars unworkable at will. In the event of war with Israel, this would be the least we should expect. The U.S. would openly intervene and Israel, whose own capacities are almost as good as the American's, would win.

"Lt Col Ahmad 'Ali notified me about the arrival of U.S. experts. He informed me that two of these experts frequently visit his workplace at the Air Defense Command. Additionally, several experts already were visiting Egypt prior to the 'Bright Star' maneuvers. 'Ali was quite in favor of carrying out any operation against these experts. To facilitate such actions, he possessed the license plate numbers and descriptions of their automobiles. He told me that the two experts I had mentioned earlier had arrived to participate in the 'Bright Star' maneuvers. I believe he said he saw them at the battalion commanded by Colonel al-Ahmadi."

Mahmud Nur al-Din mentioned that 'Ali had told him that the U.S.-made Phantoms, which the United States had refused to modernize, consume too many terribly expensive spare parts. He cited 'Ali as saying that for some of the U.S.-made radar, the Americans continued to insist on using a special kind of battery which was being procured from the United States at exorbitant prices. 'Ali had claimed that the United States was pursuing such a policy in order to drown Egypt in debt.

It should be noted that the report that the third defendant, Ahmad 'Isam al-Din, traveled to the United States to undergo a lie detector test is still unconfirmed. However, a fairly reliable report has circulated alleging that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo had Ahmad 'Isam al-Din escorted to London and Geneva to identify some of the apartments which Mahmud Nur al-Din owned there.

According to informed souces in Cairo, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo forced Ahmad 'Isam al-Din to travel to London and Geneva because the CIA operatives in the embassy were particularly worried over the fact that "Egypt's Revolution" had succeeded in identifying the nature of the work engaged in by "Denis Williams." Williams, who was attacked in Al-Ma'adi [in Cairo] on 26 June 1987 in the fourth operation carried out by the group, was in charge of security at some U.S. embassies in the Middle East. Among his aides were "John Hawk" and another by the name of "John Ford."

Mubarak Cited on Uprising, 'Abd al-Nasir

NC061034 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed once again that there are no Egyptian troops outside of the country's territory, denying in this respect the presence of Egyptian troops in the Gulf. He stressed that the Gulf countries are capable of defending themselves and protecting their lands.

President Mubarak underlined the need for Arab unity and continuous consultations among the Arab leaders to face up to the dangers threatening the Arab nation. He referred in this connection to the talks which he had held with a number of Arab kings and presidents during his visit to some Arab countries, saying that they fall within this context. The president noted the tension prevailing in the region and emphasized Egypt's firm position on the crucial Arab causes, foremost of which are the Palestinian issue and the Gulf war.

Addressing the NDP leaders at the party's political club last night, President Mubarak noted the active exchanges which are currently taking place in the region in an attempt to find a solution to the Middle East issue. He pointed out that the Palestinian people's uprising is a signal for the entire world to move quickly to end the sufferings of the Arabs living in the occupied territories.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that during the meeting President Mubarak made it clear that no power whatsoever could stop the Palestinian uprising, unless the Palestinians themselves were to feel that there were serious endeavors to solve their problem and serve

their interests. The president called on all the parties concerned to fulfill their duties, so that the Palestinian issue would not be one of lost opportunities.

Regarding the Egypt's Revolution Organization, President Mubarak stressed that the law has the final say in this respect. He added that there will be neither direct nor indirect interference in the interrogations or the trial. The president noted that the fact that the name of Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir surfaced in the case does not harm President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, a man who will always be remembered as the leader of the 23 July Revolution and a leading and prominent figure.

'Abd al-Majid Terms Uprising 'Positive'

NC061645 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories as the most serious and the most positive event in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict since the glorious October 1973 war. At the Palestinian level, he said, it equals the October war. It is the spark that has lit the torch of freedom and rejection of occupation.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the uprising, in which many Palestinians have fallen as martyrs, should be exploited in an effort to bring about a just and comprehensive solution. The responsibility for capitalizing on this uprising is not the responsibility of the Palestinians alone; it is the responsibility of all the Arabs.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid was addressing the inaugural meeting of a symposium organized by the London-based Center for Arab Studies. The symposium opened at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo today.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt will spare no effort, on the political level and on a pan-Arab level, to formulate a political position that will lead the area to a just settlement.

He said that the Palestinian uprising has attracted world attention to the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian uprising, he added, has offered an opportunity that should not be missed. This opportunity should not be affected by political arguments such as those that erupted following the October war. The situation is serious, he said, and there is no room for emotionalism or one-upmanship.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid called for wisdom and accurate calculations in dealing with the positive aspects of the Arab situation, away from emotions and slogans.

He stressed that the Palestinian uprising, the Israeli dilemma resulting from this uprising, and world anger at what is taking place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are all facts. The official attention to the cause has become indisputable.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt's role is one of national responsibility. When Arab attention was diverted to the Gulf war, and in spite of criticism of Egypt's approach to restore Sinai, Egypt, without gloating or reminding others of favors, supported Iraq when Iran occupied parts of its territory, while a number of Arab states supported Iran.

'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt has a comprehensive strategy based on supporting peace, stability, and development. The peace urged by Egypt is a just peace supported by a deterrent force capable of safeguarding it, he said.

Concluding his address, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Amman summit held in November was a step in the right direction.

Soviet Ambassador Confers With 'Abd al-Majid

NC061600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has reaffirmed his country's support for the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East as the only way to achieve a settlement that would satisfy the aspirations of the peoples of the region.

Following his meeting today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Zhuravlev said that the Soviet stand is not different from the Egyptian stand, which states that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East problem.

The Soviet ambassador noted that during their upcoming meeting on 22 March, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will include the Middle East problem in their discussions.

He added that common denominators could be found to bring closer the viewpoints of the United States and the Soviet Union. He explained that his country hopes that circumstances will be created in which the interests of all the parties to the conflict will be taken into consideration.

The talks between the Soviet Ambassador and Dr 'Abd al-Majid dealt with the situation in the Middle East in light of Shultz' talks in Cairo.

'Abd al-Majid on Coordination With Jordan, PLO

PM071035 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24 Feb 88 p 11

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Rif'at al-Najjar in Rome; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Najjar] What happened in your latest meeting with King Husayn of Jordan?

['Abd al-Majid] I delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn on the peace process in the Middle East. I was happy with the results of the meeting. I am always happy to meet with King Husayn.

[Al-Najjar] Is there some kind of coordination or distribution of roles in Europe between the Jordanian monarch and President Mubarak?

['Abd al-Majid] Yes, there is coordination, otherwise I would not have flown from Paris to Rome to meet with the Jordanian monarch and give him an urgent message from President Mubarak.

[Al-Najjar] Was the message so urgent that you had to cut short your visit to the French capital to go to Rome without waiting for another opportunity, or using the telephone?

['Abd al-Majid] I believe so.

[Al-Najjar] Could you give us an idea about the message?

['Abd al-Majid] No.

[Al-Najjar] Do you at the same time coordinate with the PLO?

['Abd al-Majid] We always coordinate with our brothers in the PLO, King Husayn, and the Arab brothers.

[Al-Najjar] King Husayn began his European tour with Italy and President Mubarak concluded his European tour in Rome. What do you expect of Italy?

['Abd al-Majid] Italy is close to our region and our relations with it, as Arabs, are very strong because Italy is considered a friendly European Mediterranean state. I believe that the Jordanian king's visit and talks with Italian officials were fruitful, and so were President Mubarak's visit and talks.

[Al-Najjar] How did you find Europe's, and particularly Italy's, position on President Mubarak's peace initiative?

['Abd al-Majid] Italy has expressed support for President Mubarak's initiative, and several European states have, we feel, responded to the movement toward peace in the Middle East. The only way to establish peace and stability in the region is to work for an international peace conference.

[Al-Najjar] How do you envisage the international conference?

['Abd al-Majid] We believe that the Middle East problem should be solved through an international conference attended by all the parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

[Al-Najjar] By "we" do you mean just Egypt, or both Egypt and Jordan?

['Abd al-Majid] I mean all the parties concerned in the Middle East.

[Al-Najjar] You held a lengthy meeting with the Arab ambassadors in Rome. Is this a new tradition in Egyptian diplomacy?

['Abd al-Majid] In every capital we visited we have been anxious to inform the Arab ambassadors of the president's contacts in Europe on the Palestinian question, the Iraq-Iran war, and on Egypt's position.

[Al-Najjar] What is new after President Mubarak's visit to Washington?

['Abd al-Majid] I believe that the United States is more convinced today and more understanding of the idea of an international conference. Contacts are being held at the highest level to promote the international conference, put an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territory, and exploit the Palestinian popular uprising to ensure fulfillment of the fraternal Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

[Al-Najjar] What about the Israeli position?

['Abd al-Majid] Israel is divided within itself. We hope Israel will listen to President Mubarak's peace call, in which he said that he wants to pave the way for fruitful negotiations that would eliminate violence, coercion, and everything that threatens stability and security in the region. Israel must feel that it is in its interest and in the interest of its people to end the occupation and recognize the Palestinian people's rights. That is Egypt's position.

[Al-Najjar] What if Israel refuses to respond and persists in its intransigence and repressive practices?

['Abd al-Majid] We must all try to make efforts. We should not dwell on hypotheses. Egypt supports the rights of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Najjar] Some Italian press reports say that you and the Jordanian foreign minister might hold a meeting with the Israeli foreign minister.

['Abd al-Majid] No, no, there is no truth in that.

[Al-Najjar] Some other Italian press reports have cited statements by a Palestinian official opposing President Mubarak's call for a 6-month suspension of violence, and urging continuation of the uprising. What is your comment?

['Abd al-Majid] I have not seen such statements and I do not wish to comment on press statements. I am an official and I would prefer to read something official.

The aim of President Mubarak's initiative is to give the peace efforts some impetus. The initiative is an integrated whole and no one part should be viewed in isolation from the others.

[Al-Najjar] Could the international conference be held before the U.S. elections?

['Abd al-Majid] Every effort made is a purposeful effort. There is no precondition that the conference be held before or after the elections. The aim is that it should be held as soon as possible.

[Al-Najjar] Tunisia was the latest Arab state to restore relations with Egypt. Will President Mubarak be visiting it?

['Abd al-Majid] Yes, and the visit will take place shortly, God willing.

Delegation Departs for Tabah Talks in Geneva

NC061840 Cairo MENA in English 1503 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 6 (MENA)—Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, director of the Legal Department of the Foreign Ministry, left here today for Geneva leading Egypt's delegation to prepare for and participate in the stage of the eight-day oral pleadings [as received] of the arbitration body of Tabah due to start on March 14. The Egyptian pleadings will take place within four days and Israeli pleadings will then follow.

Reportage on Visit by Sudan's Al-Mirghani

Arrives in Cairo 5 Mar

NC051320 Cairo MENA in English 1258 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in Sudan, arrived here today heading a delegation on a few days' visit to Cairo.

The Sudanese guest will discuss aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the various domains.

In a statement upon arrival, he hailed Egyptian-Sudanese relations and described the last visit of President Husni Mubarak to Khartoum as successful by all standards. He added it will also help to open new horizons of cooperation between the two countries particularly towards issues of common interest.

Al-Mirghani said contacts between Al-Ummah and DUP parties for the formation of the new government will start following his return home from Cairo and following the return of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi from Algiers.

The delegation accompanying Al-Mirghani includes a number of ministers and members of his party's politbureau.

Meets Prime Minister Sidqi

JN061549 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1449 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (SUNA)—Egypt's Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, now visiting Cairo, discussed here yesterday ways to consolidate bilateral ties in various fields in light of last week's visit to Sudan by President Mubarak.

They also discussed general Mideast developments and the Gulf war.

Received by Mubarak

NC071024 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and spiritual guide of the Khatmiyah sect, and the delegation accompanying him, this morning.

Al-Mirghani had arrived in Cairo 2 days ago leading a delegation for a 6-day visit.

Comments on Talks

NC071302 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and spiritual guide of the Khatmiyah sect, has praised the development of Egyptian-Sudanese relations in various spheres.

He said that his current visit to Egypt is part of the periodic exchange of visits that are designed to promote understanding, resolve existing problems, and rectify the course of relations between the two countries and peoples by putting them in their right framework. Al-Mirghani added that the visit also comes at a time when good ties have been restored and the negative aspects that once marred Egyptian-Sudanese relations have been removed.

Al-Mirghani asserted that President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Khartoum had a considerable effect on improving bilateral relations. He added that it also represented a support for Sudan and the Sudanese people with respect to the circumstances surrounding the recent war on the southern and eastern fronts and the situation as a whole. [passage omitted]

Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani pointed out that his talks with President Mubarak also dealt with Egyptian-Libyan relations. In this connection, he noted President Mubarak's initiative to return the four Libyan planes which landed at an Egyptian airport on 1 March. He also pointed out that media attacks between the two countries stopped yesterday, which he described as a good indication.

Al-Mirghani disclosed that his discussion with President Mubarak touched on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the issue of an international peace conference, and the Iraq-Iran war and its effects on the Arab countries in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC071325 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and spiritual guide of the Khatmiyah sect, and the delegation accompanying him on his current visit to Cairo. [passage omitted]

Conditions on Defense Pact With Sudan Revealed

JN061428 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Mar 88 p 1

[By Mustafa Bakri]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak's talks with Sudanese leaders during his 1 March visit to Sudan dealt with the Egypt-Sudan joint defense pact. During his talks with Sudanese officials, President Mubarak outlined Egyptian options on this pact, which can be placed within the following five conditions:

1. The joint defense pact should not be directed against African countries.

2. The pact does not apply to Nile basin countries.

3. The pact does not apply to domestic problems of either of the two countries.

4. The pact should chiefly be envoked against any foreign aggression that threatens the two countries' security.

5. The pact should not conflict with the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

AL-WAFD has learned that, during these talks, President Mubarak affirmed that it is not wise to participate in any war against Ethiopia for two reasons: First, the possibility of Egypt's playing the role of mediator between Sudan and Ethiopia; second, the fact that Ethiopia controls 83 percent of the Nile's waters. Egypt refused at the time to participate in the liberation of Kurmuk and Qaysan and stated that the occupation of these two cities is a domestic affair.

Briefs

Contracts Signed With FRG

Minister of Electricity Eng Muhammad Mahir Abazah has said that the ministry's strategy seeks to replace and renew the power plants whose lifetimes have expired. This statement was made following the signing of two contracts by the Egyptian Electricity Organization and the FRG, valued at $205 million, to finance the renewal operations in power plants located in southern and northern Cairo, Asyut, Damanhur, and Damietta. [Excerpt] [*Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 March 88 p 1 JN*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Panamanian Party Official

LD082110 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Ramiro Vasquez, first deputy secretary general of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party in Panama.

USSR's Yazkuliyev, Delegation Conclude Visit

LD081713 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Mar (JANA)—Bally Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR, and the members of his delegation left Tripoli this morning at the end of a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. During his stay he took part in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history. He also attended sessions of the General People's Congress.

Bally Yazkuliyev made a statement to a JANA correspondent, saying: "This visit gave us the opportunity to meet with our colleagues in the Great Jamahiriyah, including the secretary of the General People's Congress." He added: "Our meetings have emphasized the desire of the two sides to develop existing relations and find ways to consolidate them." He went on to say: "The visit was an opportunity for us to learn about Libya's history and to familiarize ourselves with its accomplishments in various fields since 1969, which were achieved thanks to the revolution."

The Soviet official wished the Libyan Arab people progress, prosperity, security, and peace. He also reiterated the Soviet Union's condemnation of the unsuccessful and barbaric U.S.-Atlanticist aggression on the house of the leader of the revolution, saying: "The Soviet Union condemned this action by U.S. imperialism at the time."

Municipal Prisons Demolished; Inmates Released

LD081833 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Driven by the great historic deed of the leader of the revolution on 3rd. Mirrikh 1988 by raiding the prison, demolishing it and the releasing of the prisoners in one of the greatest festivals of freedom in the world, the masses of the Basic People's Congresses and the people's committees, on instigation from the revolutionary committees, raided the prisons in the municipalities, demolished them and freed the prisoners in practical confirmation of the liberty declaration that came with the launching of the great Al-Fatih Revolution in 1969 and the consolidation of the establishment of people's authority on 2 March 1977.

The masses of the basic people's congresses, on instigation from the revolutionary committees in the towns of Al-Khums, Gharyan, Al-Baytan al-Awal and Ajdabiyah demolished the prisons and liberated the prisoners.

The freed prisoners expressed great admiration for the great historic stand of the leader of the revolution hailing the immortal human principles for which the great Al-Fatih Revolution had come. They asserted their firm determination to defend it and their eternal abidance by the jamahiri thought that liberated mankind.

Mauritania

Romanian President To Visit in 'Mid-March'

LD062350 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The Mauritanian press agency has quoted authorized sources as saying that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife will pay an official visit to our country at the invitation of Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state.

According to the agency's report the visit will start in mid-March.

President Receives Senegalese Minister

LD082213 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, received this evening Ibrahima Fall, Senegalese minister of foreign affairs and special envoy of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state.

Following the meeting, which was attended by Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Ibrahima Fall announced to the national press that he delivered a letter from Abdou Diouf to the president concerning bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. He added that the presidents of the two countries dispatch special envoys when necessary to discuss issues of mutual interest, in addition to making telephone calls. We should point out that the Senegalese foreign minister arrived in the capital this afternoon, where he was met at the airport by Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. We should also point out that the Senegalese minister has now left the capital. He was seen off by Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Sudan

Statement Issued on Al-Mahdi Visit to Algeria

JN081859 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 8 (SUNA)—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had concluded yesterday an official visit to Algeria where he held talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

A press statement issued at the end of Al-Mahdi's visit stressed the necessity of developing further the relations between the two countries.

Bendjedid and Al-Mahdi hailed the Palestinian uprising and called for holding the international peace conference, under the sponsorship of the UN, to settle the Middle East crisis.

The two sides expressed regret over the continuity of the Iraqi and Iranian war and called for implementing UN Resolution No 598.

The Algerian president and the Sudanese prime minister asserted their support to the efforts exerted by the current chairman of the organization of the African Unity "OAU" and the secretary general of the UN for solving the Western Saharan problem.

They also confirmed the importance of Afro-Arab cooperation and stressed their support to the liberation movement in South Africa and Namibia

Intra-Gulf Affairs

ROK, Kuwait Deny Reported Attack on Tanker

OW091009 Tokyo KYODO in English 0921 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO — South Korea has denied a Japanese report that a South Korean tanker came under attack from Iranian forces, resulting in death of a Japanese seaman, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. South Korean authorities, responding to an inquiry from the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, replied that no South Korean ship was attacked, Ministry officials said.

The Foreign Ministry, quoting a report from a sister ship, said earlier in the day that the South Korean-registered tanker No. 17 Choil (phonetic) came under Iranian attack Monday soon after leaving Kuwait. The ship burst into flames, it said. The Kuwait Government has also told the Japanese Embassy that no such South Korean tanker visited Kuwait, the Foreign Ministry said.

The report from the sister ship sailing in waters off Kagoshima might be bogus, officials said. The name of the sister ship was not known.

PDRY

Al-'Attas on Oil Exploration Agreement With YAR

EA082018 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, has stressed that the agreement to set up a joint project for oil exploration between the two parts of the homeland, to commence with the exploitation of this resource, is a prerequisite for frustrating the objectives of the hostile forces opposed to the unity and progress of the Yemeni people. The agreement will finally close the door in the face of enemies who are attempting to fish in troubled waters.

In an interview published in the latest issue of the Lebanese paper AL-HAWADITH, Brother al-'Attas clarified that the political leaderships of the two parts of the homeland are fully aware of the real objectives and aims of the hostile forces opposed to the two parts of Yemen. These are the forces that are neither happy nor pleased that oil was discovered in Yemen and that this resource should benefit Yemen in a unified manner. He said this resource will convert both parts of Yemen into a homeland capable of continuing its development march. It will bestow economic strength on Yemen which will enable it to discharge its historic role in Arab and international arenas.

Officials Return From Talks in YAR

EA070945 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, candidate member of the Political Bureau, first deputy defense minister and chief of the general staff, returned to Aden this evening after a visit to the northern part of the homeland. During the visit they conveyed a message from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to his brother, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General Peoples Congress, on moves toward unity between the two parts and issues and developments of interest to our Yemeni people.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah said the meetings with the brothers in Sanaa were positive and served the cause of unity between the two parts. He pointed out that joint projects between the two parts, particularly in the field of oil, were discussed. He said he was carrying a reply for Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid from his brother Col 'Ali Abdallah Salih. [passage indistinct]

YSP, CPC Delegations Begin Talks

EA070955 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Talks started this morning between a YSP delegation led by Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq Shaf'i, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, and a CPC delegation led by Comrade Li Ziqi, member of the CPC Central Committee and first secretary of the party organization in Gansu Province. During the talks, the two sides exchanged information on the experience of the two parties during the various historic stages they have passed through and the lessons they have learned from this experience. On bilateral relations, the two sides expressed their wish for a continued exchange of information and views between the two parties and for a strengthening of the bonds between the two friendly parties and peoples.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

EA081020 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] A protocol for cooperation between the YSP and the CPC was signed today. The protocol was signed for the Yemeni side by Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq Shaf'i, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, and for the Chinese side by Comrade Li Ziqi, member of the CPC Central Committee and first secretary of the party organisation in Gansu Province, who is currently on a visit to our country.

Qatar

Israel Boycott Office Blacklists 37 Companies

JN051617 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 88

[All company names as received]

[Text] Doha, March 5 (GNA)—The Doha office of the Arab Boycott of Israel has blacklisted 37 foreign companies for violating the rules of the Arab boycott of Israel.

Shaykh Fahd ibn Ahmad ibn Mubarak Al Thani, director of the office, said the decision included seven American companies namely Beta Educational Youth Organisation, Marion Laboratories Inc., Difco Laboratories and Topaz Inc. The office decided to continue blacklisting of the American company Johnson Controls, Inc., Tenneco Inc., and Perking Elmer Corp.

The new blacklist also included four Spanish companies namely Roch Empresa de Servicios S.A., G.M.A International Investment Corporation, Alberto Ben Bassat S.A. and Iber Prodata S.A.

Four Canadian companies have been blacklisted including Scitex Canada Inc., Ilana Oren Enterprises, Ivaco Co., John Labatt Ltd.

The decision included four Indian companies namely Ramco Pharmaceuticals, Sanhay Pharmachem Coporation, Leela Lace Pvt. Ltd., Bush Boake Allen Ltd.

The Two British companies Fus Wholesale Ltd., and B.W.H. Limited were also blacklisted.

The boycott decision included two French companies namely L'Oreal and Laffargue, and three Egyptian concerns: Air Sinai, Royal Trading and Suez Canal Bank. Egyptian journalist Wajih Abu Zikra has been blacklisted for writing an article attacking the boycott office.

Ten other foreign companies have also been blacklisted for various reasons, including Lorinen Textile Industries, Otto Inter. Corp., Nippon Oil and Fats, Ben Rubin and Sons, Osbornn Inter., Cillia Products, Bona Trading, Dover Inter,. Nog Hilton Hotel in Nigeria and Techmatix.

The nationalities of the above mentioned companies are, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Greece, W. Germany, Malta, China, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Talks With Tunisian President Ben Ali

LD090743 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the custodian of the two holy mosques yesterday evening at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh held a working meeting which included on the Tunisian side the ministers of foreign affairs, national economy, planning, and information and the secretary of state at the presidency and the Tunisian ambassador in Riyadh.

On the Saudi side the meeting was attended by the crown prince and first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard and the ministers of foreign affairs and finance and economy and the Saudi ambassador in Tunis.

During the meeting the excellent relations between the two sister countries, the situation in the Arab Maghreb and Mashriq [Arab east], particularly the brave uprising of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the development of the Iraq-Iran war, and the current Arab situation were reviewed.

Following that, his excellency the president had tete-a-tete talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques at Al-Yamamah Royal Palace for about 1 and 1/2 hours.

Council Issues Statement on Iranian Pilgrims

LD080009 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 7 Mar SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, presided over the Council of Ministers meeting held this afternoon at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

After the meeting the minister of information, His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, made a statement to SPA in which he said: Under royal instruction, the Council of Ministers, at the beginning of today's session, looked into the absolutely unfounded claims in some Iranian officials' statements regarding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's true position vis-a-vis Iranian pilgrims with a view to misleading Islamic public opinion.

After discussing the contents of these statements and out of its desire to clarify the facts to all sons of the Islamic nation, the Council issued the following statement: In the name of God, the mighty and beloved, the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to begin its explanatory statement to the Islamic world by drawing guidance from His words: Whosoever desires glory, the glory altogether belongs to God. To Him good words go up, and the righteous deed—He uplifts it; but those who devise evil deeds—theirs shall be a terrible chastisement, and their devising shall come to naught. [Koranic verse] Prayers and peace be upon the trusted prophet who guided us to the correct path in his words: The shedding of your blood and violating your honor are forbidden as they are as sacred as this day, this month, and this country of yours.

Thus, on this basis the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has been honored by God to serve the two holy mosques and the guests of God's holy house from all Islamic peoples over many years, accepts its responsibilities and duties.

Proceeding from the reality of this state's zealously protecting the task God has entrusted and glorified it with, namely, the protection of the Islamic sanctities in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, we address today all sons of the Islamic nation through their leaders with this statement to recall the eager and clear stands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia vis-a-vis the regrettable and painful events that took place during last year's pilgrimage at holy Mecca through the planning and organization of the Tehran rulers, and to recall the practices and challenges that preceded and followed those events to the feelings of Muslims, and to declare anew, in light of all that, what decisive resolutions the Kingdom has made in this respect.

Oh brothers, the rulers of Tehran since the establishment of their rule have persisted on sending masses of the Revolution's Guards and hirelings to the holy land every year during the days of pilgrimage under the so-called Iranian pilgrims. These masses were increasing year after year until they numbered more than 150,000 pilgrims, which represents the highest number of pilgrims coming to the holy land from any Islamic country. Had the matter been confined to the increase in number, it would have been easy, but the matter toward which we could not be indifferent was these masses' actions and practices, which fall completely outside the purpose of performing the pilgrimage and totally contravene the ethics and teachings of this duty as Muslims have always practiced, since they were explained to us by God's messenger at the farewell pilgrimage.

Among these practices were the staging of tumultuous demonstrations, the spreading of slogans, and chantings that deviate from the belief of the unity of God and obedience solely to Him. They also include hoisting of flags and portraits of leaders, blocking of roads and hindering worship, harming Muslims, and disturbing the atmosphere of the pilgrimage.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has every year issued strict orders to the security authorities responsible for pilgrimage affairs and serving pilgrims to treat matters with the officials of the Iranian pilgrimage mission with wisdom, patience, and logic regarding any measure they would take to prevent anything that would lead to sedition, disrupt worship, or create trouble. May God protect him, he has instructed officials of the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts to remind the Iranian ulema taking part in the pilgrimage mission of the lucid verses in God's holy book, which guide us to that which is proper and lead us to the correct path and maturity, such as:

(1) And when we settled for Abraham the place of the house: Thou shall not associate with me anything. And do thou purify my house for those that shall go about it and those that stand, for those that bow and prostrate themselves; [Koranic verse]

(2) God has appointed the Ka'tah, the holy house, as an establishment for men, and the holy month, the offering and the garlands; [Koranic verse]

(3) We appointed the house to be a place of visitation for the people and a sanctuary; [Koranic verse]

(4) And whosoever purposes to violate it wrongfully, we shall let him taste a painful chastisement; [Koranic verse]

(5) The pilgrimage is in months well known; whoso undertakes the duty of pilgrimage in them shall not go in to his womenfolk nor indulge in ungodliness and disputing in the pilgrimage [Koranic verse];

(6) And to remind them of the words of God's messenger, God's prayers and, peace be upon him, in his great speech after the conquest of Mecca. He said in the sanctuary of Mecca: This country was made holy by God when he created the heavens and earth. It has been made holy by God until Judgment Day. God's prayers and peace be upon him, he said: His power will not be weakened, his prey will not run away, and that which has been dropped by him will not be picked up. [passage omitted]

However, brothers, and despite all our efforts and those of numerous brothers to establish an understanding with the Iranian Government to prevent anything that might disturb the calm of the pilgrimage or contradict Islamic teachings and concepts, despite all that, we began to hear recently, with profound regret, the repeated announcements of the Tehran rulers to the effect that this year the Tehran government will send masses larger in number than previous years without prior permission from the Saudi authorities, and that, furthermore, it will stage demonstrations according to its purposes and regardless of all warnings.

This is being said in their announcements every day irrespective of and without response to the decisions of othe Islamic, Arab, and Gulf summits and to the resolutions of the various conferences and seminars the Muslims have held during this year, in various countries and at all Islamic levels, which indicate, brothers in the faith, their insistence on hindering the rites of the pilgrimage and on creating problems and stirring seditions among Muslims. For all that, brothers, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken the initiative of explaining its stand and declaring its decisive and firm decision in the following statement:

We say to the government of Tehran: He who comes to the house of God to perform the duty of pilgrimage, seeking the satisfaction of God in submissiveness, humility, and more good deeds, and he who comes to this year's pilgrimage committed to performing the pilgrimage and following its teachings without wantonness, obscenity, or argument, will be welcomed and we will ensure their satisfaction and facilitate the performance of their rites. They will find every attention and hospitality from us like all other pilgrims to the house of God.

If they have something to say to other Muslims, as they claim, why do they stay behind and not attend the regular Islamic summits and the ministerial conferences and meetings which stem from them so they can declare at these meetings what they want to convey to the Islamic nation.

But if they come to the pilgrimage, as they announce today through their statements, for purposes and aims that have no connection with religion, carrying flags and idols and chanting atheist slogans, then let them know very clearly that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken, with the help and might of God, the necessary preparations for every contingency and it will not, God willing, let any individual or group carry out actions or make utterances that contravene with the sanctity of the

pilgrimage and the purity of its atmospheres—including their insistence on staging demonstrations, shouting slogans, hoisting placards, giving speeches, distributing books, carrying photographs, digging of tombs, and other activities which violate the rites of the pilgrimage and are harmful to the feelings of Muslims.

Oh brothers, this is the decision of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which we announce to the rulers of Tehran with every clarity in affirmation of what we have previously announced in official statements in this regard.

We would also like to emphasize once again at the conclusion of the statement that we harbor no evil toward anyone or antagonize anyone. We will not act against anyone unless they first act in a way offensive to Muslims, guided in this by the saying of the Almighty: He who aggresses against you, aggress against him in the same way. We hate injustice and are seeking peace; we reject unjust treatment and what is imposed on us by the whims of others. We don't like to see a drop of blood being shed on earth except for the sake of God and for the application of His orders.

Oh brothers, the minister of pilgrimage and waqf in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced a few days ago that the ministry will receive the delegations of the pilgrimage on the usual date, which will be fixed shortly for all Muslim countries, and there will be no special treatment for the Iranian delegation as they have been demanding in their statements and warnings such as those iterated by Khatami today. [passage omitted]

Relations With PLO Reportedly Back to 'Normal'

PM081145 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Feb 88 p 1

['Uthman al-'Umayr report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Riyadh: Successful Contacts Have Returned Matters Between Saudi Arabia and PLO to Normal"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—"A summer cloud which has passed" was the description given by political circles in Riyadh as they disclosed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the secrets of the urgent contacts which have taken place between Riyadh and Tunis, where the PLO headquarters is located. One could say that Saudi-Palestinian relations are currently witnessing a return to what they used to be before the statements attributed to Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in an Arab magazine published in Paris, which led to general official and public resentment inside Saudi Arabia.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT is able to confirm that the next few days will see a definite revival in these relations after the dangers of the past few days, which might have been a threat to these relations had they been mishandled. Within this framework, the urgent contacts which have taken place between the Arab capitals, of which one of the heroes was PLO representative in Riyadh Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, alias Abu Shakir, have returned matters to normal after Saudi Arabia received a letter from the Palestinian leadership in Tunis and from Abu 'Ammar personally confirming that the Kingdom's stand, in its efforts and support for Palestinian steadfastness and struggle, cannot be ignored and that these statements were not aimed at denigrating the Kingdom, or its people, but were misunderstood, and the Palestinian leadership agrees with everything mentioned in the Saudi official source's clarifying statement.

The Kingdom, the Palestinians said in their letter, is the main bankroller and backer of Palestinian fedayeen action, the funding being either Saudi or from Palestinians in Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Riyadh have said to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian clarification, immediately conveyed to the higher Saudi leadership, was gratefully accepted. Also, indications are that Saudi Arabia has no doubt that the brothers in the Palestinian leadership know well the Kingdom's position, worth, and role. Furthermore, Abu 'Ammar, who has reaffirmed his gratitude, affection and esteem for the custodian of the two holy mosques and his people, has been personally informed of this position. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Pakistani President Ziaul Haq Arrives 8 Mar

JN081322 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq arrived in the country at noon today. He was received at Dubayy International Airport by Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid al-Maktum, deputy prime minister and heir apparent of Dubai; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Maktum, finance and industry minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, defense minister; a number of their highnesses the members of the Al-Maktum family; ministers; and senior civilian and military officials. Pakistani Ambassador Agha Akbar Shah and the embassy staff were also on hand to receive him.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Receives USSR Ambassador, Letter

JN071309 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received USSR Ambasador Veniamin Viktorovich Popov in his office this morning. The ambassador gave him a letter from the Soviet leadership on bilateral ties and a number of regional and international issues, particularly Mideast developments.

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives for Visit

JN081421 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad—His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a working visit to fraternal Iraq. During the visit, his majesty will hold talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn within the framework of the continuous consultations between the two great leaders to assess the course of Arab and international events. The two leaders' talks will also deal with the recent U.S. move in the Middle East, the talks held with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the Iranian escalation in the cities' war, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

His majesty is accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Chief Chamberlain His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Al- Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

His majesty was accorded an official reception led by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Begins Talks in Baghdad

JN081844 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Jordanian side headed by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side headed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn began talks in Baghdad this afternoon. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Armed Forces commander in chief; Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; and Hilmi al-Lawzi, Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime Minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Ahmad Husayn, chief of the president's office.

The talks dealt with an assessment of the developments in the Arab and international arenas. The two leaders' talks also focused on the recent U.S. move in the Middle East and the talks that were conducted with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the Iranian escalation in the war of cities, as well as bilateral relations.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn reassured his brother King Husayn about the safety of the Iraqi front. His majesty expressed pride and appreciation for Iraq's stedfastness. He also greeted the fraternal Iraqi people and the heroic Iraqi Army.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn expressed his and the fraternal Iraqi people's appreciation for his brother King Husayn and for Jordan and its people.

9 Mar Departure Noted

JN091004 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0928 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has left Baghdad at the end of an official visit to the country. His majesty was accorded an official sendoff headed by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique Details Strikes

JN081807 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,058 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our great Iraq, with its overwhelming superiority in destructive power and in the means to make it reach Iranian cities, has displayed patience toward the repeated aggressions against our border cities and villages. It has warned and cautioned the Iranian rulers against the consequences of going too far in the pursuit of this criminal behavior.

However, these tyrants are possessed by a lust for death, killing, and destruction. They are unequivocally announcing that their animosity toward life has made their peoples miss peace opportunities. They have also ignored our country's warnings and gone too far in expanding the scope of the war of the cities, in defiance of the international community's will. They have done so to express their malice toward our people and their valiant steadfastness, and also to distract the attention of the international public away from the revolution being staged by our people in Palestine. To face all this, the following missile strikes have been delivered:

1. At 0040 on 8 March [2140 GMT on 7 March] the Al-Husayn missile force dealt the 37th missile strike against the city of Tehran, using the Al-Husayn missiles.

2. At 1528 [1228 GMT] today, the 38th missile strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt against the city of Esfahan.

3. At 1607 today the 39th missile strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt against Tehran.

4. At 1755 today, the 40th missile strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt against the city of Qom, the center of Khomeyniite superstition and charlatanism.

These painful strikes of ours express Iraq's wrath and the consumption of its patience. We will avenge all the crimes that have been perpetrated against our innocent citizens in eternal Baghdad, Basra, Al-Zubayr, Al-Harithah, Al-Qunah, Al-'Uzayr, Qal'at Salih, Al-'Amarah, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Badrah, Khanaqin, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Dahuk, Qal'at Diah, Halabjah, Bimalik and other hamlets. We are avenging our martyrs and our wounded when we launch these strikes. We direct these strikes against the most painful spots in the body of the fossilized Khomeyniite regime. Blessed be the holy warriors, the men of our military industries and the heroic missile force. Proceed ahead to pound the dens of deception and vile. May God be with us on the road of right and peace.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 March 1988

Communique No 3,059

JN081905 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,059 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The victorious people's forces continue to carry out their courageous activities against the enemy. They inflicted the following losses on the Zionist Khomeyniites last night and today:

1. In implementation of the will of our great people to cut off the criminal Iranian regime's oil supplies, at 0953 [0653 GMT] today the aircraft of our heroic Air Force launched a successful raid on a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate and effective hit. Afterwards, all of our aircraft returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Four enemy personnel were killed, one tank was damaged, five infantry positions were destroyed, and two vehicles were set ablaze in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed, one observation post and one infantry position were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One SBG-9 gun was destroyed, two ammunition dumps were blown up, one vehicle was set ablaze, and three infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Two hovercraft, one medium machinegun, and one vehicle were destroyed and eight enemy personnel were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. One 106-mm gun and one shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The valiant Al-'Amiq Port force confronted eight enemy boats which tried to approach the loading platform of the port and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

8. At 0003 on 8 March [2103 GMT on 7 March], the criminal Iranian regime fired one of its missiles, which were supplied to it by the enemies of our country and our Arab nation and warmongers, on a residential quarter in immortal Baghdad. The attack martyred a number of our civilian citizens, including women and children, and wounded other civilians, also including women and children. The attack demolished and caused damage to a number of houses, shops and civilian vehicles.

At 1430 today, the enemy fired one of its missiles on the city of Mosul. The attack martyred a number of civilians and wounded others. A number of women and children are among those martyred and wounded. The attack also demolished and caused damage to a number of houses and commercial stores.

The vile Khomeyniites also used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the valiant city of Basra, Al-'Amarah, the 'Ali al-Gharbi sector, and the hamlets of Al-Harithah, Badrah, and Khanaqin. The enemy shelling of all of these areas martyred a number of our innocent civilians, including a number of elderly people, women, and children, and also wounded another number of civilians, including elderly people, women, and children. The shelling also demolished and caused damage to a number of houses, commercial stores, and civilian vehicles. Mercy and forgiveness for our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 March 1988

Missile Strike Against Esfahan

JN082105 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2048 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 8 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 2300 [2000 GMT], the 42d missile strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to Esfahan. Thus, our people prove that they are the steadfast bastion against whose walls all blades of treachery and crime, used by the Persian and Zionist rulers, are broken. The new Iraqi individual can, aided by the faith and science that have been bestowed upon him by God and by the historic leadership whose wise directives inspire him, can surpass his enemies, avenge his martyrs and deter the enemies from perpetrating acts of aggression and crime against his borders and cities. Blessed be the real men of the military industries and our courageous combatants of our heroic missile force. God is the source of our support and success.

Iranians Shell 2 Cities

JN090737 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—Iranian forces shelled residential areas in the cities of Basra and Al-'Amarah, southern Iraq, with long-range artillery last night. In a statement today, an Iraqi military spokesman said that the shelling martyred a number of citizens, including women, elders, and children. The brutal shelling also destroyed and damaged a number of houses, shops, and civilian cars.

Baghdad Hit by Missile

JN090814 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0805 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 9 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0941 [0641 GMT] today, the Zionist Iranian regime fired one of its missiles, which were supplied to it by the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation, at Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women, children, and elders. It also destroyed and damaged a number of houses, shops, and civilian cars. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 9 March 1988

Strike on Tehran Reported

JN090908 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 9 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have said and we continue to say that if it had accepted Security Council Resolution No 598 and peace prevailed instead of war, the Iranian regime would have spared the blood of the Iranian poeple and saved Iran's economy. This is the only way to save the Iranian people from the harm and destruction that have befallen them as a result of their rulers' actions. We also know that the Iranian rulers are not as interested in Iran's economy and the blood of its sons as they are in their whims and evil intentions. Therefore, they started the cities war to vent their grudge toward our people and to place obstacles in the way of a peaceful and just solution to the dispute.

In light of this, we, with God's help, are continuing our missile attacks. At 1124 [0824 GMT] today, the 43d missile strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was delivered to Tehran. Blessed be the men of the military industry and the men of our missile forces. God be praised.

[Dated] 9 March 1988

Iranian Shelling of Basra

JN091115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1034 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, 9 Mar (INA)—The INA Bureau in Basra says that the savage Iranian bombardment of the city is still going as of noon today.

The bureau confirms that heavy shells are falling on densely populated residential areas and that many casualties have occurred among civilians, including women, children, and the elderly.

The bureau saw four children's bodies buried under the debris of a house, and a number of women, children, and old people were rescued from under the debris.

The shelling intensified at 1100 after a relative calm in the morning.

The INA bureau says that the violent shelling included the towns of Al-Zubayr to the south of Basra, and Al-Qurnah, 5 kilometers to the north. A number of residential areas, shops, and civilian vehicles were hit.

Peres on Possibility of Ties With USSR, PRC

TA081615 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] If Israel embraces the Shultz plan there is an opportunity for a resumption of diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union and China. This was said by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in today's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting. Peres rejected the accusations and slanders made by Likud members against him regarding the Shultz document. Our correspondent in the Knesset Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Foreign Minister Peres this morning spoke to the Knesset Members [MK's] about the advantages of the Shultz plan. Peres started out by warning that the events in the territories have greatly damaged all facets of our international political activity. Peres said he does not remember a period in which the European public opinion was so much against us. Concerning the Shultz document, Peres added that Israel was requested by the United States to give its answer by March 15. If no answer is given by then the United States may decide to return to the sidelines. In that case Israel will find itself under public pressure from all directions.

Later Peres told the Alignment faction members:

[Peres] Today we are facing a choice between what may become one of the greatest blunders in the history of the Jewish people, or what may be one of the greatest opportunities we have ever had of extricating ourselves from the cycle of war.

[Gutman] Peres foresees a dramatic change in the Middle East if we embrace the Shultz plan. He predicts that as soon as May, diplomatic relations will be established with the Soviet Union and perhaps even with China.

Peres devoted the second part of his remarks to rebutting the Likud attacks against him. Peres said that every lousy and petty official dares to criticize him. At the request of MK David Magen he retracted this remark. Mr Peres also emphasized that the Shultz document was not classified. Later in the session Peres continued to speak sharply against the Likud and the prime minister's office.

Later in the Alignment faction session Peres called on the entire party to explain to the public the Alignment's position. Peres promised for his part to demand a decision on the Shultz plan in tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session.

Further Discussion, Comments on Peace Plan

Arens on Meeting With Shultz

TA090632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz changed his position regarding the international conference and went back on his [original] concepts. The decisions Israel must make are crucial, and any decision will be met with understanding by the United States. Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Arens told our correspondent in Washington Shim'on Schiffer at the end of a meeting with Secretary Shultz last night. Mr Arens conferred with the U.S. secretary of state for almost 1 hour in a bid to persuade him to change his plan.

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] The U.S. secretary of state was very attentive to what MK Arens had to say on everything pertaining to the riots in the territories. He did not, however, budge from his position on the main issue, which was the reason for Arens' trip: the U.S. initiative for the solution to the conflict.

[Arens] The main problem—and, in my opinion, this is really a serious problem for Israelis in all parts of the political spectrum—is the current concept of the international conference as proposed in Mr Shultz' plan. This concept gives the international conference much more weight and a larger role than had been discussed previously. At present, there is no question of an international conference that would serve as an opening, to be followed by direct negotiations between the sides.

Mr Shultz told me today that it is simply unrealistic to expect the international conference to play only a ceremonial role and serve as an opening. His current proposal states that the international conference should accompany the negotiations, and that the negotiating parties should report back to the international conference. Shultz says, however, that the latter will not be able to dictate or veto agreements, insofar as they are reached.

[Schiffer] If that is so, what has happened to the U.S. secretary of state who is identified and described as Israel's most significant ally in the U.S. Administration?

[Arens] Secretary Shultz remains a friend of the State of Israel, and I have no doubt whatsoever that he cares about our security and our political situation. At the same time, as is known, he went to Moscow, Amman, and Cairo, where he probably heard demands and conditions which have to be met in order for the three of them to be willing to take part in the process. I have no doubt that he went back on some of his original positions in a bid to get the process moving.

[Schiffer] This being the case, can we say no to the United States?

[Arens] Look, we are on the verge of making very important, perhaps even fateful, decisions which will affect Israel's future and security. This is our prime responsibility. Incidentally, I think Mr Shultz and the Americans realize that the responsibility for Israel's security and for peace in the region rests primarily with the state of Israel and the Israeli Government. We must proceed with this responsibility in mind, and I believe this will be understood here, in Washington. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 9 March adds: "...officials in the foreign minister's office expressed astonishment over the Arens-Shultz meeting, and pointed out that Mr Arens was once again trying to thwart a peace initiative. After the meeting between Secretary Shultz and Mr Arens, Israeli and U.S. sources in Washington said the Americans insist that Israel not put off a decision on the U.S. initiative."]

Shamir, Likud Ministers Consult

TA090807 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet went into session a short time ago to discuss the Shultz document. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

The Alignment and Likud ministers held separate sessions prior to the Inner Cabinet meeting. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated to his fellow Likud ministers that he does not intend to put the U.S. peace plan to a vote by the Inner Cabinet. In the meeting of the Likud ministers, Mr Shamir argued that the Arab countries have been radicalizing their positions, and that he should be allowed to travel to the United States next week to try to dissuade the U.S. Administration.

The prime minister said a turning point in U.S. public opinion is already discernible. Several senators regret their participation in the famous letter sent to Secretary of State George Shultz, counter groups are forming in Congress and within the Jewish community, and the game is no longer one-sided, the prime minister contended.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi believes the U.S. plan should be put to a vote by the Inner Cabinet today. He said: I would like to hope, Mr Prime Minister, that you understand my proposal is meant to help you in your trip. Shamir, however, remained adamant and replied: I understand your position, it makes sense, but we should not close the door to negotiations with the U.S Administration.

The Inner Cabinet is currently in session for a debate that has been allocated the usual 2 hours. As things appear now, decisions should not be expected.

No Vote Taken in Inner Cabinet

TA091010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet held a brief debate on the U.S. secretary of state's initiative, and dispersed without making any decision. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister rejected Minister Peres' position and did not put the issue up for a vote.

Ministers Comment on Session

TA091237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Talk in the studio between political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami and program moderator Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] We will start with the Inner Cabinet session. Shalom to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Ben-'Ami] Shalom, Karmit.

[Gay] Well, there is no decision.

[Ben-'Ami] The decision is not to make a decision. The prime minister arrived at the Inner Cabinet session this morning and said he had no intention of putting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative to a vote, but only to hold a discussion about it. He said the vote would be held upon his return from Washington, when he would again raise the subject in the Cabinet.

[Gay] What did the ministers say?

[Ben-'Ami] In view of Shamir's position, which was formulated and reiterated a few minutes earlier at a meeting of the Likud ministers, the Alignment ministers headed by Shim'on Peres demanded that a vote be held in today's session so that the prime minister would not go to Washington as the leader of a party rather than a government, as Peres put it. In other words, Peres said that if Shamir left for Washington without a decision he would actually be representing the position of half the Cabinet.

A very interesting statement was made by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi—he is known to have said as much before—who also attended the meeting of the Likud ministers. Levi once again emphatically demanded that the Inner Cabinet or the Cabinet plenum should pass a decision against the U.S. initiative now. Levi said that the absence of a decision might be construed by Washington as though Israel does not have an opinion about the most fateful question concerning its future and does not yet have a uniform position. A yes-and-no answer will humiliate the government and will tarnish the prime minister's stature in the eyes of the U.S. Administration. According to Levi, Israel would thus be inevitably inviting U.S. pressure and would be eroding the firm stand Israel has taken throughout this process, to the point of bringing about a crisis in bilateral relations.

The prime minister replied to this by saying there is no doubt that the Cabinet will reject the Shultz initiative even after his return from Washington. Levi countered by saying: So, you are actually admitting that there is no chance whatsoever of changing this initiative. If that is the case, the obstinacy in not making a decision now is a mistake which we will yet regret.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said: In the absence of a decision, Shamir will be acting in Washington as the leader of a party and not as the leader of the government. Levi proposed that the Likud and the Alignment should decide now, prior to the prime minister's departure for Washington, on bringing elections forward and should set the date for them. We should act responsibly, Levi said, and if the gap is unbridgeable, we should agree on the need to bring elections forward so that Shamir is able to present a joint government position. Peres said he definitely agrees to this and that by next Sunday, when the Inner Cabinet and the Cabinet plenum meet again, the possibilities for bringing elections forward and possibly a mutually acceptable date would be clearer.

Other ministers also spoke. Minister 'Ezer Weizman said to the prime minister: In your talks with Shultz during his shuttle mission in the region, you said that a sudden slap is very painful. If so, why are you going to Washington without a clear-cut position to suffer an even more painful slap?

The Alignment ministers said: In an interview with the Voice of Israel this morning, Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Arens said that as far as Shultz is concerned, the U.S. initiative cannot be changed. If so, what is there to clarify? The clarifications were made by MK Arens, and now it is time to vote.

[Gay] Indeed, what will the prime minister say when he lands in the United States? He will step on the red carpet, and Secretary Shultz will shake his hand and will ask him: Well? What will Shamir say then?

[Ben-'Ami] Shamir will reply: The Cabinet has not yet made a decision. I want to clarify several matters with you and I have several alternative proposals concerning the disputed points in your initiative which I am not prepared to accept, such as on the issue of the international conference.

[Gay] Were those proposals not raised during Shultz' talks here?

[Ben-'Ami] During his talks here, Shultz actually listened to the reactions of the leaders of the region to his ideas. After all, he put his final proposal in writing only at the end of his talks. The prime minister will now tell him: We have alternative proposals. We see your proposal as a suggestion for an initiative, and we have several amendments. What is more, Shamir will say, we need not be the first ones to give our reply. We have not yet heard King Husayn's official response. That is why Shamir argues that further clarifications can do no damage.

Notwithstanding the argument of the Alignment ministers that this move will only invite great pressure and will erode bilateral relations, the prime minister is determined to go to Washington without a Cabinet decision.

[Gay] When is he leaving?

[Ben-'Ami] Next Sunday night.

[Gay] Thank you, 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 9 March notes that in today's Inner Cabinet session, "the real focus of interest has moved away from the diplomatic issue to that of early elections. Prime Minister Shamir said that when he comes back from the United States the Likud and the Labor Alignment must get together to decide on an election date, something between the end of May as Labor is demanding and the summer vacation time favored by the Likud."]

Peres Outlines Clarifications

TA091304 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] After the Inner Cabinet meeting, Shim'on Peres came to the Knesset and, from the podium, referred to the clarifications he received from the United States on its plan. From the Knesset plenum our correspondent Natan Guttman reports:

The foreign minister made his remarks in reply to a motion on the peace issue raised by Knesset Member Simcha Dinitz in his last address in the plenum. Peres detailed four clarifications he received this morning from the U.S. ambassador on the international conference. According to the clarifications, the phrasing of the invitation to the parties is not meant to open the door to the PLO, nor can the UN secretary general invite the PLO to the international conference. The third point deals with the bilateral negotiations. The U.S. has made it clear that these are not meant to replace direct negotiations. The last point clarifies that the fact that the conference will receive reports will not give it coercive powers.

[Begin Peres recording] Knesset members, I am prepared to hold a debate, but not on imaginary issues. There is no PLO, there are direct negotiations, there is no coercion, and any report to the conference will require an agreement. [end recording]

The debate in the Knesset was very stormy and Likud MK Yehoshu'a Matza was removed from the hall because of continual interjections.

Levi Stresses Need for Decision

TA081325 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Telephone interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by anchorperson Karmit Gay and party affairs correspondent Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Mr Levi, we reported this morning that officials in Washington maintain that Secretary Shultz would like to have Israel's response to his plan even

before Prime Minister Shamir arrives in the U.S. capital, or at the latest, in the course of that visit. The secretary feels that there is no room for further clarification, and he therefore demands an answer by the middle of next week. Do you agree that things are so pressing?

[Levi] This is a situation that is quite clear and requires a decision. We are not at a stage in which we can afford to engage in arguments over ideas. All this was done during the secretary of state's visit and in his meetings with the prime minister. Of course, a variety of different ideas were broached, and the fact is that we were presented with a plan which Shultz calls a package deal. It involves many dangers. The only course of action Israel should embark on, and thereby demonstrate a responsible approach from every angle, is to make up its mind and give the U.S. Administration its answer. This decision must be adopted before the prime minister departs for Washington. We must not entertain the thought that this plan actually does not exist and that we will succeed in substantially altering the principles of this program. I think that...

[Gay, interrupting] That means that the alternative proposals which the prime minister will carry to Washington are unacceptable to you, or you think they are pointless at this stage.

[Levi] As far as I know, according to what has been published, the proposals were raised on various occasions—either as a package deal or broken up into separate proposals. Nevertheless, they failed to move the secretary of state. On top of that, and despite these proposals, we were presented with a plan. The question is what will happen if the prime minister arrives in Washington and Israel still has no united opinion. In that case, I would expect him to be subjected to tremendous pressure that would be harmful both to him and to the state. The result will be that after his return here we will be forced to reject the plan and call elections. I urge a careful political review of the matter before it is too late. The Likud does not accept this plan, and furthermore it lacks the authority to do so. It is therefore imperative that our position be made known today and a decision be made on this matter now.

It is true that the Cabinet is divided and split up in an argument over the issue, with our partners embracing a different view. What can we do in such a state of affairs? In those circumstances, we should say that we will not decide. The prime minister should then go to Washington without a Cabinet decision. Judging by what we know about the plan and based on messages from the United States, it seems he will be unable to substantially change the plan. If he goes into detail and attempts to effect this or that change, still in substance nothing will change. Even if he ultimately rejects the plan, this will amount to a direct conflict with the administration. This is undesirable for Israel. It is consequently necessary to make an Inner Cabinet decision on this issue today, because we have no mandate—and the way the plan was presented by the United States it is a demand or actually I would say even a dictate—to decide on a plan that involves numerous dangers. This plan actually means acceptance of the other side's conditions. It involves an a priori commitment—which no one in Washington has ever tried to gloss over—to withdraw from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. These are not negotiations. They prescribe giving before discussing as a precondition for the discussions. This is not acceptable to us under any circumstances.

[Barqay] Mr Levi, do you intend to raise this demand for a Cabinet decision at the upcoming Inner Cabinet session?

[Levi] I raised it before my fellow Likud ministers. At any rate, I hope to persuade them before the Inner Cabinet session. I am convinced that this is the way, otherwise we will find ourselves in a state of unbearable pressure from the outside and a state of horrible domestic dispute. We will not be able to function. The potential damage is obvious, so we must avoid it. There is no agreement in the Cabinet because the Alignment accepts the plan and we reject it. Fine! Let us decide in the Cabinet to go to the people and let them decide. This is a democratic act. As a democratic state, the United States understands it. This would allow us both to state our position and also maintain our responsibility and avoid a crisis with the United States. Any other way will lead to a conflict either during or after the discussions, and we would do better to preempt the move.

[Barqay] Does that mean that your timetable involves early elections?

[Levi] Definitely.

[Barqay] What month would you prefer?

[Levi] It is necessary to sit down together with the Alignment as responsible people. I say that at this juncture responsibility demands this, dictates this. We should then decide on an acceptable date.

[Barqay] You must know, you must have heard as much and not for the first time, that people in the Likud will try hard to find points in your position they could term irrelevant. They will then undoubtedly claim that David Levi is again trying to throw a monkey wrench in Yitzhaq Shamir's works.

[Levi] I am familiar with these arguments. I am not prepared to let anyone claim that my position is not the Likud's position, or that it conflicts with the opinion of the Likud. I believe that as a party, the Likud chooses to deliver its message in the clearest manner. Furthermore, the Likud carries out its responsibilities just like every

other party. Obviously this plan is unacceptable to the Likud, which rejects it. So what is the point of employing tactics whose sole purpose is to lead to a confrontation and then elections?

[Barqay] But how, Mr Levi, would you be able to force or persuade the prime minister to put the issue up for a vote? After all, the prime minister has the sovereign right to announce in the Inner Cabinet which subjects are up for a vote and which are not. My question is whether you might be demanding that the movement institutions—say the party Central Committee or any other institution—meet to force the prime minister to adopt a position along the lines of your remarks?

[Levi] I hope to have made my point by the time the Inner Cabinet sits, and I hope the prime minister will be convinced of his own accord. We must not be reckless because this is not a personal matter. It has to do with the state as a whole, and that includes the Likud. Therefore, as logic would have it, we must employ the move I propose.

[Barqay] What if Shamir remains unconvinced?

[Levi] Beyond any forecast, there exists a reality which dictates certain moves. I have not yet despaired. I would like to hope that wisdom will have the upper hand and that responsibility will dictate the next move. It is not as if I am standing against the prime minister. I believe that if the prime minister insists on something which he claimed he totally rejects, and employs tactics which would ultimately bring him to the point of saying no under conditions which are bad for Israel, I would hope he would instead opt for Israel's good.

[Gay] Then perhaps it would be better for the prime minister not to go to Washington at all?

[Levi] I leave this to him. But certainly, rather than leaving for Washington where increasing amounts of pressure will be applied, and where he will attempt something which is an impossible mission and then return and announce a situation which is very difficult for us and for him, he should consider taking the necessary step. That means arriving in Washington and declaring that the people will decide. This is a democratic move, and it will be understood there.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. Thank you, also, Razi Barqay.

[Levi] You are welcome.

Labor Adopts 'Secret' Plan To Pass Election Bill

TA091145 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 Mar 88 pp 1, 9

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] The Labor Party leadership yesterday formulated a secret plan to take advantage of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's absence in the United States to present in the Knesset in 2 weeks time a preliminary reading of a bill calling for early elections in late May or early June. The Labor Party intends to present its motion to disband the Knesset on 21 March, 2 days before Shamir returns from his visit to the United States.

The Labor Party leadership stressed yesterday that Shamir is expected to complete his official meetings in Washington on 18 March, but is staying on in the United states for another few days on a private visit. Therefore Labor would not be exploiting his absence on official business.

The consultations by the Labor Party leadership were held on Monday afternoon in Labor Knesset faction Chairman Rafi Edri's office, during the second meeting of the party's steering committee set up recently by its election headquarters.

The meeting was attended by Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres; Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am, chairman of the election headquarters; his two aides, Nisim Zvili, who is responsible for information, and Avraham Shohet, who is responsible for organization; Edri; MK Mikha'el Harish; Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz; and NA'AMAT [Labor-affiliated women's organization] Secretary Masha Lubelski. Defense Minister Yithzaq Rabin was supposed to participate, but did not show up.

The participants decided that the justification for Labor pressing for early elections would be Shamir's negative reply to the Shultz proposal. Peres said at the meeting that there will be no need to wait for Shamir's return to be briefed on his talks.

Arab Media Comments on U.S. Peace Initiative

PLO Has Right To Choose

TA081604 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
5 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Only the PLO Chooses Its Representatives"]

[Text] From the time that U.S. Secretary George Shultz began his first Middle East tour, the PLO declared its consent to hold a Palestinian-U.S. meeting on any level and in any Arab or foreign capital, should Shultz so desire, provided that the PLO itself chose the Palestinian delegation. The PLO deemed it necessary that Palestinian figures from inside—the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—as well as from outside take part in this delegation.

This stance to which the PLO is committed stems from an established and firm reality, specifically that the Palestinian problem does not refer to only the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It refers to all the Palestinians whether they are inside or outside, even away from their homeland and in the diaspora. Therefore, under no circumstances can one divide the unified Palestinian people who, self-evidently, are united by a single common destiny.

We are stating this, not for the first time but as a reiteration, due to the fact that news agencies reported that Egyptian officials were trying to persuade the PLO to agree on a compromise solution on the arrangements of a Palestinian-U.S. meeting between Shultz and Palestinian figures on whom all sides agree. These reports state that the compromise solution requires procedural, not fundamental, concessions.

It is clear that this Egyptian approach came as a result of the secretary of state's refusal to conduct a dialogue with the PLO. This refusal was within the framework of a U.S. attempt, which will definitely not succeed, to isolate the PLO from the arena of events and consequently prevent it from participating in any negotiations.

The question, or rather more than a question, which arises now is: Why is the PLO alone required to make concessions, whether procedural or not?

Why do some Arab brothers conveniently call on the PLO to make these concessions? Why do they not instead require the United States to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people which has the right to participate actively in negotiations leading to a real and permanent peace by finding a just solution to the Palestinian problem?

The PLO alone, while announcing to the entire world that it desires peace in the regior, has the right to choose its representatives to any international gathering. No party, whoever it may be, has the right to ask otherwise from the PLO. This matter falls within the framework of Palestinian regulations and principles.

'Glaring Facts' Ignored

TA081819 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
5 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: The Shultz Document"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended his second shuttle trip to the region by announcing what he called the "Shultz document" for peace. Some details of this document were released yesterday when the U.S. secretary was commuting between Tel Aviv, Damascus, and Cairo. This document continues to fail to perceive the objective realities and glaring facts in the region brought about by the current events in the occupied territories since about 4 months ago which have attracted the concern of all the world's governments and nations.

On the basis of reports disseminated by the news media yesterday, the document is comprised of proposals for the launching of an "international opening" in the middle of April, followed by direct talks after 2 weeks, with the talks on the final agreement beginning in December. The document divided the negotiations into geographical committees in which Israel will hold bilateral talks with each Arab party separately, while at the same time these committees will have no connection whatsoever. In additio.' to this, they will have no power of veto and no solutions will be imposed on the negotiating sides.

After a quick reading of the document's clauses we find ourselves once more facing a U.S. position that has exceeded, in its rancor for and disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, all bounds and imagination. The U.S. position has not budged even one inch from the same previous positions which Shultz has always futilely tried to market to the Arabs. These positions are harmonious with the Israeli mentality that rejects the principle of convening an international peace conference within the framework determined by international legitimacy.

By affirming our categorical rejection of Shultz' spoiled merchandise, we reflect the feelings and senses of all the masses of our people who did not have any illusions from the first day of Shultz' visit that the U.S. Administration will be able to offer anything new that would consolidate the foundations of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the region. The "no" that burned the face of Shultz when he tried to win over some of the Palestinian personalities according to his own disposition and specifications, was a profound response that expressed the depth of the pain and bitterness dwelling in the hearts of our people, stemming from the antics and games of all U.S. envoys.

Hence, this outcome, which is obvious following Shultz' visit, should be enough to abort the weak logic of some Arab regimes that are still possessed with the illusion of a "U.S. solution." Moreover, this U.S. solution, which ignores entirely our people's legitimate rights, should suffice to induce those who are mistaken to respond positively to the Algerian invitation for the convocation of an extraordinary Arab summit that would draw up a unified position in response to this U.S. disdain.

Arab Stance Criticized

TA081848 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
6 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Liquidation Plan?"]

[Text] Before departing to Washington the day before yesterday at the end of his second shuttle trip to the region in one week, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz presented a detailed plan to Jordan's King Husayn, Egypt's President Husni Mubarak, and the two heads of the Israeli coalition government, Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres. It was written on glossy paper in the form of a standarized letter to each of those leaders in the region. The Reagan administration was trying to emphasize that it had transferred from the cycle of "talk," which can be altered in subsequent statements, into the cycle of explicit and detailed "writing," from which Washington expects explicit and detailed written responses by the 15th of March.

At any rate, the "writing" does not represent any achievement because tons of paper, ink, documents, and agreements relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and specifically the Palestinian problem, have so far not been able to provide any durable solution or a permanent political settlement.

The details of the plan, whether within the oral or written framework, do not come close to achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region despite the odd claim that this plan is the only one drawn up to achieve peace.

In confronting this U.S. emphasis, we are not talking about the rejection by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of this written plan or some of its clauses, nor are we referring here to the possibility of advancing the date for the election of the 12th Israeli Knesset from November to another date in connection with this Israeli rejection-acceptance.

We want to talk, however, about the Arab position. Where is it? And where are we in it? Will the Arabs leave it to a future 7-member ministerial committee to follow up the issue at the level of minor officials? Will they do this after U.S. Secretary George Shultz drove a wedge in more than one Arab capital and returned to Washington to await the results of this wedge?

Framework of Talks Lauded

TA081927 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Peace and Equilibrium"]

[Excerpts] The Arab states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict agree that progress exists in the U.S. position regarding the concept of convening an international peace conference. In a commentary yesterday Damascus radio said: "U.S. officials have begun talking about an international conference and the legitimate rights of Palestinians. This is a good thing compared to previous U.S. positions."

Dr Usamah al-Baz, political aide to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, expressed this position when he said: "Shultz' trip will not lead to a change in the region's situation but there is progress in the U.S. position regarding the convocation of the proposed international conference." The same applies to Jordan which welcomed this new U.S. position through statements by several officials.

We believe that U.S. consent to set the negotiations in the framework of an international conference is an important development, and we cannot ignore this development. Yet the U.S. position regarding the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, particularly the right to self-determination, is still below the minimum level to which the Palestinian people might agree. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people have shown real concern for the need to establish a comprehensive, durable, and just peace in the region. Such a peace cannot be achieved except through a principled and precise equilibrium. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination constitutes the launching pad for consolidating the pillars of peace that can achieve security and stability for all the region's peoples, headed by the Palestinian people.

Hijacking Part of 'Wide-ranging' PLO Operation

TA081550 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 88 p 17

[Article by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Excerpt] The commandeering of the bus in the south was part of a wide-ranging operation that the military wing of the PLO recently began. The aim of this operation is to restore the PLO's leadership role in the Palestinian struggle against Israel. The PLO leadership knows that without real operations in the field to return lost prestige, its political status will be harmed both among inhabitants of the territories and among the leaders of Arab countries.

The terrorist gangs which tried to infiltrate from Lebanon and carry out attacks for the purposes of bargaining on the northern border also operated within this framework and for the same purpose. This was also the case with the Katyusha rocket salvos and the infiltration attempts from the sea which we have witnessed during the past 2 weeks.

The PLO, which like Israel was taken by surprise by the uprising that broke out in the territories, very quickly understood that the local leadership directing the disturbances might dislodge it of its status as the spokesman for the Palestinians. The hang glider attack, which was carried out by Jibril's men, who are dependent on Syria, also threatened its position.

It was clear to 'Arafat and his men that if their status continues to be eroded, they will find themselves shunted aside during the political process which has just begun. The PLO will surrender its position to a new leadership which will develop among Palestinian residents of the territories—or perhaps even to members of Jibril's group and other organizations—over which it does not have control. It was therefore essential, from their point of view, to act quickly to stop this process. The PLO leadership decided on the proven measure of spectacular attacks against Israeli targets.

To repeat, yesterday's attack was part of a wideranging operation planned and carried out by the PLO's military wing, which was strengthened prior to—and during—the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state.

The fact that the northern border is almost hermetically sealed, as is the Jordanian border, was what caused the PLO leadership to try to operate from the Egyptian

border. As is recalled, President Mubarak allows the PLO an official presence in Egypt, and their supervision is very superficial. The wide spaces of Sinai, the long and unsealed border with Israel in this sector, and the Bedouin's readiness to help anybody who pays them well are additional factors which influenced the terrorists to operate in this sector.

The first sign was the band which was captured in the Negev hills several weeks ago. Its members crossed Sinai in the Qantarah area. It appears that it was there that they received equipment, and at least some of the weapons which were found in their possession. With the help of Bedouin guides they made their way to the border. It is very possible that this was also the path taken by the band which seized the bus yesterday. After the first band was captured the Egyptians promised to tighten supervision on activities in their territory. But the Egyptians do not excel in acting with speed, and perhaps they also did not want to be too conscientious.

It seems that the band which operated yesterday had been in the area for at least 3, or perhaps even 4 days. Its members first encountered the military Renault in the Nafha area, some 30 km from the Egyptian border across a hilly terrain which is difficult to cross on foot. It is therefore possible that when they were not discovered by IDF border patrols, they managed to hide for almost 24 hours in Israeli territory before carring out their operation. [passage omitted]

Shamir Questioned on Egypt's Role in Bus Attack

TA081749 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen during the prime minister's tour of Bedouin towns in the Negev on 8 March; in Hebrew—videorecorded]

[Text] [Kohen] Mr Prime Minister, in light of yesterday's terrorist attack, what is your attitude toward it and how might it affect the efforts to promote the peace process in the region?

[Shamir] This was a grave murderous attack. It was also a foolish deed serving no purpose. It will only encourage us to step up security in Israel and along its roads, and accelerate our efforts to liquidate terrorism.

[Kohen] Sir, it is a well-known fact that this is the second attempt to strike at Israel from Egyptian soil. How do you address this fact, and have contacts been held with Egypt on this?

[Shamir] There have been talks. I do not know whether yesterday's killing did indeed emanate from Egypt, or what exactly Egypt's role in it was. We will talk to the Egyptians, and I would very much like to hope that there will be cooperation with them to prevent future such attacks.

[Kohen] Sir, on the eve of your departure for the United States, will you present the Americans with new proposals or ideas beyond those submitted by Secretary Shultz?

[Shamir] Definitely. I am leaving for the United States armed with plans, suggestions, and ideas on ways to promote the peace process in our region. We will be very happy to do that with the help of the U.S. Administration.

[Kohen] Mr Prime Minister, according to reports from Washington, the U.S. secretary of state is seeking a definitive answer from the sides—a yes or no response to his document.

[Shamir] This is not true. This is not the way things were presented to me. This is no ultimatum. It is a proposal and we can certainly raise our own proposals and comments.

[Kohen] Do you anticipate pressure?

[Shamir] I do not. If there is pressure, it will not help.

Novik Meets Basyuni on 'Terrorist' Infiltrations

TA081314 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Political sources said last night that Israel will demand that Egypt increase security measures along its border with Israel in order to prevent recurrences of infiltrations by terrorist gangs from Egypt to Israel. The sources stressed that this is the second time in the past few weeks that terrorist bands have infiltrated across the Egyptian border. Therefore, the fact that Egyptian security authorities are not doing enough to prevent terrorist infiltrations is viewed with gravity.

There were already contacts yesterday between Israeli and Egyptian security personnel, during which Israel expressed its concern about the infiltrations across the border and demanded that the Egyptian security forces increase their policing of the border.

Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, met with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni yesterday and discussed infiltrations by terrorist bands across the Egyptian border.

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

TA071225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Arriving in Israel this morning was Sweden's Foreign Minister, Sten Andersson. He was welcomed at Ben Gurion Airport by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Peres said the Swedish visitor was coming at a unique moment in Israel's history. We shall listen carefully to any advice he has for us, Peres said. The Swedish foreign minister is due to have talks later today with Prime

Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and then with the foreign minister. On the last of his 3 days here, Andersson will tour a refugee camp near Bethlehem, and from there travel across the Jordan River to Amman.

Holds Talks With Shamir

TA072046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson who is visiting in Israel sharply denounced the attack in the south. He told our correspondent Gid'on Remez this was a stupid act which could only have a negative effect on the region.

Earlier the Swedish minister met Prime Minister Shamir. From the prime minister's office it was reported that he expressed understanding for Mr Shamir's desire to conduct direct negotiations with the Arabs. The guest emphasized, nevertheless, that everything must be done to make it easier for Jordan to enter negotiations. Mr Shamir said he has already agreed to talks with Jordan with the presence of U.S. and Soviet representatives in order to give the Jordanians the international umbrella they are demanding. To his great disappointment, however, King Husayn rejected this possibility and is insisting on the international conference.

Meets Peres; Comments on PLO

TA080735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Swedish foreign minister, currently in Israel, yesterday repeated his condemnation of the terrorist operation. At a dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Minister Andersson said that the act emphasizes the need for a political solution. Minister Peres took issue with the visiting minister's remarks that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people. According to Mr Peres, the PLO backed out of the agreement with Jordan at the last moment, prevented talks between the Palestinians and Shultz, and has now murdered women.

Criticizes Policy

LD081138 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] At an official dinner in Jerusalem yesterday, Foreign Minister Sten Andersson criticized Israel very sharply. In his dinner speech, Andersson said that the Israeli authorities themselves have admitted that violations of human rights have been committed. Sten Andersson emphasized that Sweden, in approving the resolution on the partition of Palestine in 1947, had also voted for the Arab population's right to establish its own state. Andersson went on to say that Sweden regards the PLO as the representative of the people in the liberated areas.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in his turn, was critical of Sweden. He said he could not understand the support for the PLO, and pointed out that Jordan is the lawful representative of everyone on the West Bank, since they are Jordanian citizens.

Talks With Palestinians

TA081828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson met this afternoon with eight Palestinian figures from the territories in his country's consulate in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that after the meeting the minister and his Palestinian guests said that the PLO should represent the Palestinians in the peace process, and that the absence of the PLO is the shortcoming of the Shultz initiative. The Palestinian representatives refused to condemn yesterday's terrorist attack saying that it is no worse than what is being done to the Palestinians in the territories.

Visits Al-Duhayshah, Departs

TA091210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The Swedish foreign minister, Sten Andersson, visited the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem this morning. Andersson said alternative housing must be found for the refugees, even though the United Nations is trying to prevent this. Afterwards, Andersson left for the Allenby Bridge, on his way to Jordan.

MAPAM, Communist Bloc Agree on Youth Exchange

TA061619 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] An agreement was reached for an exchange of youth delegations between Israel and the Soviet Union during the summer months. Dov Gilhar reports:

MAPAM's youth department and the youth divisions of political parties in East European countries agreed on an exchange of delegations. In a meeting last week in Vienna, Komsomol delegates from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Romania, East Germany, and Cuba agreed to send representatives to visit Israel, and to host MAPAM youth delegations.

The first delegation, which will include representatives of all the Communist bloc countries, will visit Israel in May, and will be the guests of the MAPAM annual conference. In August a Soviet youth delegation will arrive here. In July, a MAPAM delegation will leave for East Germany.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Rabin on Policeman's Murder

TA081454 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the murder of the policeman is an extremely grave incident. Rabin said: I am convinced that whoever murdered him will be caught and punished. Minister Rabin told our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz that the defense establishment is preparing to deal with phenomena such as murder.

Minister Rabin also told our correspondent that the peace between Israel and Egypt will continue as before. At the same time, however, we expect the Egyptians to prevent the infiltration of terror squads into Israel.

Minister Rabin met soldiers on the northern border and said that there is a link between the increase of terror incidents in Lebanon and the continuation of the disturbances in the territories.

Mitzna' Explains IDF Policy

TA081727 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1305 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Summary] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, appeared in Kibbutz Afiqim last week. He first addressed the kibbutz members and then answered questions presented from the floor.

He begins by saying that the policy in the territories has not changed, and "we are doing our best to handle and face up to those who engage in active operations against us. These include violent riots, stone throwings, the hurling of bottles, and more." The intention is to "avoid getting into a state of friction with those who are not actively engaged in acts against us" which means that the IDF does not get involved in "passive demonstrations" such as refusal to go to work, strikes, or nonviolent assemblies. He enumerates the incidents which require and receive IDF intervention, and says they include those cases in which roads are blocked or Israeli institutions in Judaea and Samaria are rendered inaccessible. Action is likewise taken to prevent the spreading of violence from one place to another.

Mitzna' admits that "the drawing of this fine distinction is very difficult" but says nevertheless: "In my opinion, the majority of the population still does not operate against us. Most of the people try to lead a normal life in this abnormal state of affairs." The population is very easily intimidated and it does not take much to force it to take some group action, but when it comes to serious incidents only a minority engages in them. This calls for clear-cut guidelines for IDF operations to tackle the disturbances and clear-cut messages to the population after the IDF has left the area. In other words, says Mitzna', the policy that prevailed since 1967 is still relevant today.

Even when collective punishments are employed, such as in the cases of curfews imposed on large towns, "we are very cautious and think carefully before we do it," asserts Mitzna'.

IDF deployment in Judaea and Samaria is approximately four times larger than before December. Naturally, the soldiers cannot deploy all over. The means at the soldiers' disposal are "undoubtedly insufficient and not exactly suitable for this type of confrontation," says Mitzna', although he cannot think of any type of weapon that could effectively control civilian riots. "Since we do not employ lethal weapons, every means we could employ would be limited and the population quickly learns how to react to them." Let no one think that "this problem could be solved without our soldiers making physical contact," he says.

Regarding the use of live ammunition, "our instructions on opening fire were applicable before this storm began and were designed to provide an answer to hostile terrorist attacks." The old rules still apply, except that "today we dispense with all the hair-splitting wise-guy definitions" and state simply that soldiers may use their personal weapons "when in danger" and in the absence of any other way to extricate themselves from hazards.

"For all the reasons in the world, we cannot afford to use live ammunition against unarmed civilians," says Mitzna'. This being the case, the soldiers are being forced to resort to beatings to quell violent riots. Mitzna' confesses that "we should have taken stricter measures to see to it that every single soldier fully and clearly understood" our instructions. This has been corrected, and "soldiers may now use force until the rioter has been captured and ceases to object," says Mitzna', although "a gray area still remains, just as there are gray areas in the regulations on opening fire." This is so because "it is impossible to provide an absolute answer to every situation that occurs" and because of the soldiers' subjective assessment of the situation and the experience they may or may not have had in handling such cases.

Mitzna' declares that the "outstanding cases, whether they are made public knowledge or not, are addressed even if this is done away from the limelight." These do not fall within the category of that "gray area." He tells the soldiers and their parents that "we should make it clear to our soldiers that they first of all have our full backing" and that commanders or other superiors are to be entrusted with the job of making the ultimate decision in difficult and unclear cases. He says that one of the lessons drawn from this predicament is that it is necessary to maintain "greater presence of officers at all the incidents."

We have an "acute" problem to address, says Mitzna', and we want to restore some "reasonable degree" of security, law, and order. This can only be done by "pursuing our way." "There is, at the moment, no other way," Mitzna' says, despite all the problems involved. These problems include the local population, the Jewish population of Israel, the settlers, and the local and foreign media "each of which is a front onto itself and yet are all interlinked." "If we have patience and do not suffer from such an abundance of cases that the local and international media are inundated with stinging reports, we will ultimately be able to confront the problem," states Mitzna'. Nevertheless, he says, it is clear to me "that whatever the army or the defense establishment might do in the area is not the solution. They are merely maintaining the area in a reasonable condition until a solution is found. The army solves no problems."

Mitzna' admits that there is a disciplinary problem regarding beatings which should be handled better, but states his conviction that this will be done. He also admits that the IDF has been affected by the ongoing unrest. This should be dealt with "when we get out of this situation" and restore the IDF's normal moral standards.

The same is true for the army's routine activity, from which it has been distracted to deal with the riots. Being aware of the problem, Mitzna' says, we are "addressing it." "Our army is the best I know of in the world," says Mitzna', adding: "I am familiar with lots of armies in the world, I have studied history and read the annals of many countries. These countries, either through hypocrisy and possibly viciousness, or because they expect different standards from us, permit themselves to level criticism at us. I say: We are not only good because of the way we operate the Merkava tank, the aircraft, the missile boat, or the Galil rifle. We are good because we are confronting a problem which is very serious, and not only from its physical aspect." Still, "we must beware lest the army become an army of riffraff."

"It is physically impossible to close Judaea and Samaria off to the media. Also, I believe it would have a much worse effect on us to follow in the footsteps of other countries in the world," says Mitzna'. He notes that "very often—and we have not concealed this—the very presence of television, reporters, or the camera undeniably stimulates action." Whenever and wherever we think that we can "physically" close the area off, and believe this would be beneficial, "without declaring a total boycott of the media, we will do so."

Employing harsher measures is risky, says Mitzna', because in attempting to anticipate developments "you may cause a speedier escalation than would occur naturally" and no one can accurately assess which way the events are heading.

"If you shoot at stone throwers, you will bring the grenade on yourself sooner," says Mitzna'. Besides, "being an area ruled by a military government, Judaea and Samaria are governed by Israeli law in some parts, in other parts the Jordanian law applies, and the international law and the Geneva convention stipulating the norms of conduct for an army controlling a population under conquest" are also binding. The situation in these areas cannot be compared to Homs, where "the Muslim Brotherhood opposes the Syrian rule, and the Syrians deploy three divisions or three artillery formations and shoot, and no one gives a damn" or to those cases before 1967 in which the Jordanians fired bullets inside Bethlehem and Nabulus, says Mitzna'.

U.S. Report on Abuses Denied

TA072018 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
7 Mar 88 p 3

["Exclusive" report from the United States by Miryam Fuchs]

[Text] New York—Four Palestinian youths were dropped from an IDF helicopter hovering at an altitude of 3 meters above the ground. This story was reported last week by a correspondent for New York's "National Public Radio" station in a broadcast from Israel.

The reporter, Deborah Amos, who resides in Jerusalem, told her listeners about an incident which she claimed happened in the village of Jamma'in in the West Bank. She claimed that the villagers got together and joined the demonstrations. On 8 February, the IDF entered the village to disperse a demonstration staged by stonethrowers. The soldiers detained 40 youths and beat them up. Four of the detainees, including a 12-year old boy, were put on a helicopter handcuffed. Then, as the helicopter was hovering at an altitude of 3 meters above a tilled field, they were dropped from the aircraft.

The reporter alleges that two of the youths were hurt but the child suffered no injuries.

In her report, Deborah Amos emphasized that the youths were hurled onto a plowed field, not rocky or rough terrain. This was done so that they would not sustain serious injuries and also "to teach the villagers a lesson."

Meanwhile, the IDF spokesman has denied the entire story.

West Bank Commercial Strike

TA091154 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Excerpts] In the administered territories a complete commercial strike is in effect in most areas, and there have been disturbances. Steve Rodan sums up the situation from Ramallah:

[Begin recording] Palestinian activists called for a general strike today, and so far the call has been widely observed. Except for an occasional pharmacy, I did not see one store open in a corridor which extended from Ramallah to Bethlehem. Public transportation has ceased. Most workers have stayed home today, the exception being the Tulkarm area. In Ramallah, for example, the city was a ghost town, and the only ones in the streets were newspaper vendors, and the occasional passerby. [passage omitted]

In the Al-Jalazun camp, the army entered to clear many of the roadblocks. The army is on alert today, and curfews are remaining in several areas, including Bani Na'im and Al-'Arrub. The army has declared a closed military zone the Samarian towns of Qabatiyah, Sarah, Hablah, Silat al-Harithiyah north of Janin, and Al-Yamun. [end recording]

Settlers Kill Arab

TA090647 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian was killed yesterday at the West Bank village of Al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiya, north of Ramallah, and residents said he had been shot by a settler who opened fire with a pistol after he encountered stone roadblocks as he drove through the village.

An IDF spokeswoman last night said the incident was still under investigation.

In other reported clashes between settlers and Palestinians, a Palestinian was shot and wounded by a settler at the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus after his car was stoned, and residents of the Ari'el settlement clashed with villagers from the neighbouring village of Haris after blocking the trans-Samaria highway to protest against the stoning of Israeli cars along the road.

At Biddu, near Jerusalem, a pregnant woman from the neighbouring settlement of Har Adar was injured in the head when a car she was travelling in was hit by a rock during a riot in the village.

An Arab bus was set on fire last night in Hebron, and police are investigating whether the arson was an act of retaliation by Jewish settlers for attacks on Israeli vehicles.

Villagers at Al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah said a white Subaru had driven into the village from the Jerusalem-Nabulus highway, and was forced to stop at a barricade of stones. They said the driver, whom they identified as a settler, got out and removed one barricade before moving on to a second roadblock, which he could not remove.

They said the driver then pulled out a gun and opened fire at an adjacent house, and later at a home further up a hill, hitting Khadr Muhammad Khamidah, 42, who was standing on a veranda. The villagers said that though no stones had been thrown at the motorist, he had apparently panicked.

Khamidah was taken to Ramallah Hospital, and buried at the village yesterday afternoon in a procession in which mourners raised Palestinian flags.

At Balatah, a car carrying settlers was stoned, and one of the passengers opened fire at the attackers, wounding a youth. The settler later presented himself at the Nabulus police station and reported the incident, saying he had opened fire when he felt endangered by the stoning attack, a military source said. [passage omitted]

1 Killed, 6 Injured in Nabulus

TA091313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Excerpt] One dead and six injured persons were brought to the hospital in Nabulus. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that violent riots took place in the Al-Fari'ah refugee camp and in Silwad. IDF troops dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. The IDF is checking whether the casualties that were brought to the hospital in Nabulus were hit in these riots.

This afternoon, hundreds of villagers blocked the road between Biddu' and the settlement of Har Hadar and threw Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers. One of the rioters was wounded by fire opened by the soldiers. [passage omitted]

IDF Teargasses Settlers

TA081440 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 88 p 17

[Report by Hayim Broida]

[Text] The army last night had to hurl a tear gas grenade at a group of residents of the settlement of Ari'el. The settlers were trying to infiltrate the Arab village of Haris, from which large stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles travelling along the trans-Samaria highway during the past few days.

The atmosphere in Ari'el is tense, and many residents said they were acting out of frustration in view of the unstable security situation in the region. Many residents called on the men to go on "night maneuvers" in the village of Haris.

After being incited, several dozen men from Ari'el last night tried to enter the village in 20 vehicles. They were stopped at the entrance to the village by roadblocks made of stones, burning tires, and a barrage of stones.

A report on the increasing tension between the residents of Ari'el and the village of Haris reached the IDF, and an IDF force was sent to the area to try to calm tempers. At one point, the soldiers noticed a group of Ari'el residents trying to infiltrate into the Arab village through the plantations. The soldiers fired a tear gas grenade at the group, but this only increased tensions further.

At about 2230, Ari'el residents captured an Arab youth who was hurling stones.

2 Soldiers Released on Bail

TA081637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Military Appeals Court has ordered the release on bail of Charlie Danino and Ya'ir Nisimov who were charged with burying young Arabs under a heap of dirt. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller reports that the judge accepted the defense claim that no discrimination should be made among defendants in the same case.

Further Reportage on Release of Oxfam Employee

Coleridge Describes 'Arrest'

LD082057 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2036 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Freed British Oxfam worker Peter Coleridge described tonight how kidnappers blindfolded him and a colleague and put them into car boots.

He said the men "insisted that it was not hostage taking, and it was simply an arrest for taking a photograph."

Mr Coleridge, released in the Lebanon today, spoke to BBC radio's PM programme as his "overwhelmed" wife and three children celebrated at their home in Headington, Oxford.

He said the group who took him and Syrian colleague 'Umar al-Tarabulsi last Thursday "were impeccably professional in the way they behaved throughout the experience."

REUTER news agency quoted Mr Coleridge, 44, as telling reporters: "They were very skilled in what they were doing.

"There was no physical violence, but a lot of psychological effect."

Mr Coleridge and Mr al-Tarabulsi were captured by Fatah Revolutionary Council guerrillas and handed over at the Sidon home of Mustafa Sa'd, a Sunni Muslim leader.

The Briton, Middle East coordinator for Oxfam, said he had been taking pictures in an area he photographed before Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

He and his colleague, the charity's head of operations in the Lebanon, had been interrogated, blindfolded, handcuffed and put into the boots of two separate cars.

They were driven to an "isolated place" about half an hour from Sidon and held there for the rest of their captivity.

Mr Coleridge said he was well fed throughout, and not subjected to physical violence.

He told the BBC radio interviewer he had not been sure which Palestinian group was holding him.

There were, he said, long interrogations each night. "A lot revolved around politics, both world and Palestinian."

He said he felt "fine" after his ordeal, although he had lost a little weight.

Asked why he thought he had been released, he said: "I think it was because of the pressure that was coming from Palestinians everywhere in the occupied territories and in Lebanon."

He told the radio interviewer he heard no news of any other hostages, including Mr Terry Waite, during his captivity.

"They insisted all the time that this operation had nothing to do with any other kidnap." [passage omitted]

Sa'd, Khalid Comment

NC082002 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1745 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] After 12 days in detention, Briton Peter Coleridge, Middle East director of the Oxfam charity organization, and 'Umar al-Tarabulsi, the organization's director in Lebanon, were released today. They were set free at the home of Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization. Also present were Dr Usamah Sa'd, Popular Army Commander Abu Darwish al-Skaymi, and Walid Khalid, a representative of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

Mustafa Sa'd stated: We are all interested in and concerned about the safety of foreign nationals in Lebanon. We are also concerned with national security in the Lebanese cities and the Palestinian camps. Certain suspicious groups have attempted to distort the picture, claiming this incident was an abduction. That is totally untrue. We affirm our responsibility for protecting foreigners in the national and Islamic domains. This applies to Europeans, Westerners, Easterners, or Americans, especially if they are working with humanitarian and social institutions.

Sa'd pointed out that Coleridge and Al-Tarabulsi were detained for questioning; it was not an abduction. He expressed hope that the British Government will rescind the decision it made yesterday.

Meanwhile, Peter Coleridge said: I admit that taking pictures in 'Ayn al-Hulwah was a grave mistake for which I am responsible. I visited Lebanon 2 years ago. Today things have changed. I did not realize the situation was so sensitive in 'Ayn al-Hulwah. I made a mistake when I took pictures without obtaining permission from the authorities there. I respect those people who detained me. I reiterate that there was no kidnapping. We hope that the Oxfam program for social aid will not change as a result of this incident.

Coleridge disclosed that, throughout his detention, he was kept in a separate room from that of his colleague, 'Umar, and that he was moved blind-folded to an unknown location.

For his part, and on behalf of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, Walid Khalid expressed astonishment at the uproar over the detention of the two men. He said this uproar has come from those who did not say a word when Israel arrested Palestinian citizens. Khalid added that the detention was a security measure. After all, they had to be questioned, as they were taking photographs in a sensitive area. He described this as an affirmation of adherence to the national status in Sidon, under the leadership of Mustafa Sa'd.

Lebanese Forces Say Reform Proposals 'Useless'

NC081945 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting this afternoon under the chairmanship of Dr Samir Ja'ja'. The council reviewed the current proposals for domestic reform, and issued the following statement:

The current talk about proposals to reform the Lebanese system is a waste of time. The goal of such talk is to derail the Lebanese problem and obscure the facts. Surely, there is a need for reform, but this is only a secondary aspect of the problem. It is true that the current political system should be demolished and rebuilt. However, the Lebanese crisis is presently that of foreign armies and militias occupying massive areas of Lebanon, holding Lebanon hostage, and using it to strengthen their bargaining power in the region.

The proper way to resolve this crisis, the statement adds, is to have all foreign armies and militias withdraw from Lebanese territory. Any attempt to discuss the Lebanese problem without addressing this issue would be useless. After all, reform under occupation is tantamount to capitulation. Therefore, before considering political reform, all Lebanese should seek to free their country from the grip of occupation.

All previous attempts at reform under occupation have proved futile. This is because the occupier only wants to transform the Lebanese problem into an internal problem, a problem of Lebanese reconciliation and political reform. In the meantime, the occupier spares no effort to block reconciliation and thereby justify its presence in Lebanon.

The statement concluded: The Lebanese Forces reiterate that the Lebanese must endorse liberation as the proper course toward reconciliation. The Forces call on international parties concerned with Lebanon to work for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies and armed groups from the country.

Imam Rohani Discusses Disappearance of Al-Sadr

NC082150 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Telephone interview with Imam Ayatollah Mehdi Rohani by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Eminence, you have promised to reveal new information today regarding the disappearance of Imam al-Sadr. Could you tell us about it?

[Rohani] I was approached yesterday by some reliable sources, who confirmed that the imam is still alive. Since this matter is politically sensitive and is related to the future of Lebanon and our entire region, it is only natural for it to take some time. This is not a media issue to which I could add new information on top of what I have already said. I have nothing new to add at the moment. However, as I have stated earlier and will repeat now, the important thing is that Imam al-Sadr, thank God, is still alive. Furthermore, he knows of my contacts with you. That is all I can say.

[Correspondent] Do you still stand by your promise that the imam will appear in Cairo?

[Rohani] When I said this, I pointed out that there was an 80-percent chance he would appear. However, this is a delicate and political affair, in which opinions vacillate each day. I am not directly involved in the exchanges [al-muhadarat], and I do not know how the exchanges between the imam and the officials [not further specified] have gone. What I do know is that the imam is alive and well, thank God.

[Correspondent] Do you believe it will take some time? Do you think the appearance of the imam will be delayed?

[Rohani] Of course. Such a delay would be natural. It is normal for these things to take some time.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, how long will it take?

[Rohani] As I said earlier, this is a political matter. I cannot tell when the imam will appear.

[Correspondent] Your Eminence said the case of the imam is an international political issue...

[Rohani, interrupting] Of course, a sensitive political issue that is related to the future of our region.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that big powers, and not Libya, are behind his disappearance?

[Rohani] Naturally, yes. Arab countries, as well as big powers, are behind his disappearance.

[Correspondent] Suppose the imam returns to Lebanon. Do you think this will bring about a solution to the Lebanese crisis?

[Rohani] Obviously. Look, the imam enjoys a special reputation and position. He is respected by the Shi'ites, the Sunnis, the Christians, and the Druze. Everyone holds him in esteem because he is a man of religion and

politics—not politics in the day-to-day sense, but as a political realist. He wants to see everyone happy, and is known for his good reputation, good will, and wisdom.

Due to his position and personality, it is only natural that he will be above the internal disputes if he returns. Although they are all Lebanese, there are differences among the various factions. What they need right now is someone to play the role of an arbiter among them.

[Correspondent] In most of your statements you said you knew where the imam was.

[Rohani] I have some information, I repeat, I have some information. However, because of its sensitive and political nature, any disclosure of this information could delay the solution to this affair. I can not say anything more. Naturally, I am not revealing everything I know.

[Correspondent] What is you opinion of reports that link news about the imam's appearance to the elections within the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council in Lebanon?

[Rohani] Shaykh Shams al-Din [deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council] is a sincere man, a man of faith and religion, whom I know and believe in. I believe that he is a sincere man who is doing his job. However, these are local issues. I have not been to Lebanon for 15 years and, therefore, I am not familiar with your domestic affairs. I live here, and I have problems with Iran and others. They say I am the leader of Shi'ites in Europe. I have problems and many other things to take care of; as such, I cannot interfere in Lebanon's domestic affairs.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Groups Claim Attack on Israeli Position

NC081820 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Excerpt] A number of fundamentalists and Palestinians in Sidon have claimed responsibility for Saturday night's attempt by three gunmen to infiltrate Israel from southern Lebanon. The three gunmen were killed during the attempt.

In a joint statement released in Sidon today, three organizations claimed responsibility for the operation. They are: the Islamic Movement in Paletsine [Al-Harakah al-Islamiyah fi Filastin], whose name first surfaced on Saturday when it claimed responsibility for firing rockets into northern Israel; the Islamic Unification Movement, a pro-Iranian fundamentalist Sunni organization; and the Faithful Resistance, a pro-Iranian offshoot of the Shi'ite Amal Movement.

The statement, which was accompanied by photos of the members of the group, identified the gunmen as Kamil Abu Hashish, from Gaza; Bilal Majid Sa'id, a Sunni from Al-Biqa'; and Yahya al-Amin, a Shi'ite from southern Lebanon. The three gunmen, the statement said, attacked an Israeli post in 'Aytarun, 3 km from the Israeli border, and killed several Israeli soldiers before being martyred. [passage omitted]

Israelis Enter Al-Khiyam, Detain Residents

NC090914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Late last night, Israeli enemy forces stormed into Al-Khiyam. They detained Imam Shaykh 'Abd al-Husayn 'Abdallah, Aminah Baqir, Lebanese Army soldiers Muhammad Suwayd and Muhammad al-Dawi, and civilians Hasan Suwayd and Muhammad Sa'd.

Rocket Fired at Syrian Position in Tripoli

NC091139 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] A rocket was fired at a Syrian position in the Abu Samrah area of Tripoli at 1120 today, causing material damage.

'9 February' Claims Attack

NC091235 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February organization has claimed responsibility for today's RPG attack on a Syrian occupation army position in the Abu Samarah area of Tripoli.

Syrians Fire at Hizballah Vehicle in Ba'labakk

NC091748 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Syrians manning a checkpoint in Garage Al-Shara' in Ba'labakk today fired at a car driven by Hizballah members. The incident resulted in tension in some sections of the city.

Al-Asad Receives Revolution Anniversary Greetings

Gorbachev Letter

JN072152 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 gmt 7 Mar 88

["Text" of letter of congratulations from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary, to President Hafiz al-Asad on the 25th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution—date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee in the USSR and the Soviet people, and in my name, I would like to convey to you, to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party members, and to the entire Syrian people, heartfelt congratulations on the 8 March Revolution anniversary.

This event has become a prominent landmark in Syria's contemporary history, and has cleaved the way toward the entrenchment of its independence and toward progressive development. It has also been the beginning for the great economic and social transformations in your country.

Under the Ba'th Party's leadership, the Syrian people have scored noticeable achievements over the past 25 years in the fields of economy, cultural renaissance, education, and health. The achievements have been scored under the canopy of a difficult struggle and under circumstances of continuous pressures by the imperialist and reactionary forces.

The SAR's foreign policy is principled. It effectively participates in the struggle for world peace and security, and for the freedom and social progress of the people. For these reasons, Syria now enjoys the international prestige which it deserves. For many years, Syria has been confronting aggression with courage. It has also been defending the Arabs' just cause, and opposing attempts to replace the real and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East with separate settlements that conflict with the basic rights of the people in the region.

The USSR highly values and is greatly satisfied by the high level of the multifaceted Soviet-Syrian relations which are successfully and fruitfully developing on the sound basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation. These relations have stood the test of time. They respond to the interests of our two people and have become an important element in the current international life. In this responsible stage of mankind's progress, active cooperation among all peace-loving people and countries acquires an ever-increasing importance.

We highly value the successful cooperation which exists between the USSR and Syria in the field of solving the major issues of the contemporary world, and in the struggle for warding off nuclear holocaust, for establishing a comprehensive system of world security, and for realizing solutions to regional conflicts. Of special significance is the coordination of our two countries' efforts with respect to the issue of a Middle East settlement which, as seen from experience, is possible only through the convocation of the international conference.

While I congratulate the Syrian Arab people on this great occasion, I would like to affirm once again the everlasting sentiments of sympathy and respect the Soviet citizens harbor for friendly Syria. I would like to reaffirm our support for its struggle toward independent progressive development. The USSR will also do in the future all that is necessary to enhance the bonds of friendship and cooperation that bind our two countries and people.

Comrade Al-Asad, I wish you good health and happiness, and for the friendly Syrian people progress and prosperity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phone Call

JN081926 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the September Revolution in Libya, this evening. During the conversation, Col al-Qadhdhafi congratulated the president and the Syrian Arab people on the 25th anniversary of the 8th March Revolution. He wished the Syrian people prosperity, progress, and success. The president thanked him for his congratulations and wished the fraternal Libyan people progress and prosperity.

Khaddam on U.S. Policy, Arab Relations

JN081335 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1140 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Damascus, 8 Mar (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has said: We have not noticed any change in U.S. Middle East policy. This policy is still captive to the U.S.-Israeli relationship. There must be a change reflecting the general U.S. stands vis-a-vis the Middle East question.

In an interview published by AL-THAWRAH newspaper today, Khaddam affirmed: The U.S. stand must be clear on the question of Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. The United States must also have clear stands on all aspects of the Palestine question and on the national rights of the Palestinian people. The United States must stop its military and political support for Israel.

Referring to the bases of peace from the Syrian viewpoint, Khaddam said: These are a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the guarantee of the national rights of the Palestinian people. As for the peace framework, it is an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the parties involved in the conflict, provided that it is an effective conference with powers and not just a cover for direct negotiations and separate, partial deals.

Regarding Lebanon, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attributed the deadlock in the political situation to the continued Israeli occupation of a part of Lebanon and Israel's relationship with certain organizations that are being used to serve Israeli interests, as well as to certain parties' lack of conviction about reaching a serious just, equitable, and balance settlement leading to the restoration of the country's unity, the establishment of a central authority that can enforce law and order in all parts of Lebanon, and the achievement of constitutional reforms that can lead to democracy and equality among all, regardless of sectarian inclinations.

Khaddam affirmed that the best way to end the crisis in Lebanon is through a national accord and the realization by some diehard of the profound tragedy from which the Lebanese are suffering and the great damage they are doing to their country as a result of their inaction, stubborness, and refusal to achieve equality among all Lebanese citizens through the establishment of a national, nonsectarian regime.

Regarding the current Arab situation, Khaddam affirmed that marginal differences, no matter how big and wide, will remain insignificant compared to the main conflict with the Zionist enemy.

Khaddam said: When the Arab nation's capabilities are channeled in the right direction—namely, the arena of the conflict with the Zionist enemy— when slogans are translated into actions and not used as a cover for defeatism and evasion, and when policies are geared toward serving the interests of the nation, all marginal conflicts will disappear and the Arab arena will witness a qualitative change.

Replying to a question, Khaddam said: Syria's stand on the Iraq-Iran war is well-known. It was announced from the first day of that war. Our opinions and predictions about this war have been proven correct. Everyone knows the enormous damage the war has caused. Perhaps the biggest damage is Iraq's removal from the battlefield with the Zionist enemy, the Gulf states' preoccupation with the dangers of this war, and the disruption of the Iranian Islamic revolution's role in the confrontation against the Zionist enemy and the utilization of the resources afforded by this revolution.

Replying to a question on the side battles, Khaddam said: We have always given the main battle priority over side battles. There has not been a problem between us and any Arab country because of a decision made by Syria. We are convinced that those trying to create problems with Syria are serving imperialist and Zionist plans whether they like it or not.

Khaddam affirmed that today Syria assumes the main burden of the conflict with the Israeli enemy. It is shouldering the Arab nation's concerns, which have been imposed by the Zionist presence in the Arab homeland. Syria is preparing itself to confront this presence, he said.

Khaddam added: We may differ with some on the concept of the conflict with the Zionist enemy, and also on the course of action and practices to be pursued. We realize the facts regarding the objectives of Zionism, its ambitions, and its determination to establish greater Israel. We also realize that this makes it incumbent upon us to build our resources and achieve partity in resources. At a time when these factors are apparent, a few parties believe that they can regain some rights by pursuing convoluted means. This victimizes the cause.

Khaddam said that Syrian-Soviet relations have witnessed an increasing development since the launching of the 8 March Revolution. He added that these relations have been bolstered during the past 25 years, and that these relations have assumed their proper framework through the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two states in 1980. He affirmed that Syrian-Soviet relations serve the two states' mutual interests, and that these relations enhance the struggle against imperialism and strengthen the camp which is hostile to Zionism and imperialism.

Khaddam also emphasized that Syria is currently a powerful and modern state that has an expanded economic edifice based on the nation's values. He went on to say that this edifice seeks to serve the nation's objectives. Khaddam also asserted that Syria has a strong and lofty military edifice that defends Syria and its principles and dignity. He said: Syria today is a basic weight in regional deicisionmaking, events, and developments, and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad represents a position that must be reckoned with in the region. In their development, the Arab masses look up to President Hafiz al-Asad, considering him the leader who is facing the nation's enemies with determination and resolve. He is also a force to be reckoned with by all friends and foes. This is because he takes strong, serious stands, and courageously confronts his enemies. He also advocates pan-Arab policies.

Continuing to discuss the 8 March Revolution and its accomplishments, Khaddam said: We have scored significant accomplishments. However, we should courageously and frankly say that we have loopholes and negative aspects that we must face and surmount. The presence of mistakes and loopholes is something usual. However, covering them up and failing to expose them is unacceptable. Consequently, so is failing to confront, tackle, and surmount them.

Khaddam pointed out that the most important characteristic of the March Revolution is its in-depth understanding of the ongoing conflict between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy. Hence, it has sought to concentrate its efforts on achieving a strategic parity between Syria and the Israeli enemy. We have made good strides in achieving that objective. Parity here is not restricted to its military dimensions. It has its comprehensive concept. This revolution also has resources and isolates the Israeli enemy worldwide through the international

policies pursued by our country, through its confrontation of aggression, and through continuing internal, Arab, and international mobilization against the enemy's schemes and crimes. We have also sought to achieve this through supporting and backing the resistance to the Zionist enemy, especially in Lebanon and through bolstering the national struggle being waged by the Palestinian Arab people.

On the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied Arab territories, Khaddam said: This uprising is a qualitative development in the Palestinian national struggle and in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This qualitative development is related to another link; namely, the Lebanese resistance. We look upon these two links of resistance as a victory scored in favor of Syria's pan-Arab and principled course and in favor of Syria's policy and strategy.

He affirmed that the uprising has closed the doors on those who sought to turn the national struggle into a political solution and the national confrontation of the occupation into a diplomatic effort. He added: This uprising has historic vistas. It will continue until the Palestinian people are able to realize their national rights and until the Arab nation is able to realize their pan-Arab objective of comprehensive liberation.

Commentary Lists Terms for Peace Conference

JN071529 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1245 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Radio Israel reported this morning that Shamir and Peres hold widely divergent views on the document that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz presented to Israel and other governments in the Middle East. According to Israeli sources, Shamir would rather go to Washington on 14 March unfettered by an Israeli Government commitment on the document. Instead, he wants to put to the Americans an autonomy plan for the occupied land along the lines of the second part of the Camp David agreement. Israeli sources are known to have leaked to the press the text of the document which Shamir rejected. Even setting aside the differences between the Israeli coalition partners—Likud and Labor—on this or that, the two are in broad agreement.

The united Likud-Labor perspective may be summed up in the famed no's: no to a total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territory occupied since the 1967 aggression; no to the national, inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, which translates into a rejection of Palestinian self-determination and state; and no to a separate Palestinian representation at the proposed international peace conference, which translates into a dismissal of the right of the Palestinian Arab peopale to choose their representatives. The three no's are a common denominator between the rulers of Israel—never mind their infighting, and charges and countercharges. It is this intransigence that has thwarted a positive, meaningful U.S. effort in the region and kept the peace process at a standstill. The U.S. Administration is bound to be swayed by Israel's three no's by virtue of the strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv and U.S. rulers surrendering the control of their Middle East policies to the rulers of Israel.

The U.S. rulers have hitherto shared the three well-known no's with the Israeli rulers. They do not advocate an unconditional Israeli pullout from the Arab land occupied since the 1967 aggression. Nor do they recognize the rights of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination, to an independent state, or to choose their representatives. This is still the case, despite the fact that the rulers of Washington have recently been talking about an international conference and legitimate Palestinian rights. What good is a new name for the same bad, negative substance? U.S. attempts to sell its and Israel's old wares under new names and slogans are doomed.

What Israel has failed to secure through war, invasion, and conquest, and the United States has failed to force on the Arabs through the carrot and the stick, will not beobtainable at the negotiating table. Syria is anxious to see in place a just peace based on UN resolutions, including Resolution No 181 [as heard] and Security Council resolutions calling for Israel's evacuation of all the conquered territory. Syria will join any constructive international effort to establish that kind of peace under the aegis of the United Nations and through an international conference. This conference must group the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the dispute, including the PLO, and work seriously toward a comprehensive, not piecemeal settlement.

It is inconceivable that the Arabs who refused to surrender when they were weak and the balance of power was heavily tipped against them will now under any circumstances go the conference table to capitulate to the aggressor, its prior conditions, and its bilateral, piecemeal deals. The road to peace is known; it never leads to rewarding and encouraging the aggressor, or to denying the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and the rights of the Arabs to liberate every inch of their occupied territory.

AL-BA'TH on U.S. Carrier's Visit to Haifa

PM080931 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
23 Feb 88 p 2

[Ilyas Khuri article: "Israeli-U.S. Dilemma!"]

[Text] It seems that the United States has not been content with announcing its absolute political support for Israel in the face of the huge popular revolution in the occupied territories. It has decided to enhance this with military support as well, emphasizing once again their staunch alliance.

After the initiative the United States launched last month with a view to containing the uprising and limiting its increasing effects at both regional and international levels, the failure of its envoy Richard Murphy's tour, and the upcoming tour of Secretary of State George Shultz, which no one expects to achieve any better result,

the United States has chosen this week to dispatch an aircraft carrier and a number of ships to visit the occupied port of Haifa as an indubitable expression of the continued U.S. commitment to Israel!

The visit comes in view of two important points: First, the parties concerned with the Middle East problem realize that the American move, with both its old and new concepts, has now come to a dead end that cannot be overcome. Thus, it is impossible for Washington, especially during a presidential election year, to be able to achieve anything at this level.

Second, everyone realizes that the revolution in the occupied territories is heading toward more escalation and expansion, thus its impact on the Zionist entity has begun to pose a major threat to the pillars on which this alien aggressive entity is based.

As the United States has defined for itself a general principle, namely to flex military muscles and escalate the situation when it or its main ally in the Middle East faces a dilemma or when it seeks to promote a new initiative or plan, the aircraft carrier's visit to occupied port of Haifa lies within this concept. It is in fact an essential step in view of current developments in order to emphasize the scale of the dilemma in which the strategic allies are involved as a result of the escalating popular uprising in the occupied homeland.

AL-BA'TH Attacks Iraqi 'Campaign of Spite'

PM091013 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 25 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial by Chief Editor Turki Saqr: "Why Does the Iraqi Regime Continue To Kindle Spite?"]

[Excerpts] This is a legitimate question being asked by every Arab citizen everywhere: Why does the Iraqi regime continue its campaign of spite in order to poison the Arab atmosphere and sabotage Arab relations, and how can we accept the Iraqi regime's conflicting statements on pan-Arab security and pan-Arab unanimity when it insists on implicating the Gulf Arabs in its unacceptable and resented war and unleashing a campaign against any Gulf or non-Gulf party adopting a rational stand on the war or working to contain it?

Who would believe that the Iraqi regime cares about pan-Arab security and the Arab cause when noses still suffer from the bad smell of the deal with the Israelis regarding the installation of an oil pipeline? And is it possible that the hissing from the Iraqi regime's mouthpieces which began at the start of our kinfolk's uprising in the occupied territories and the Golan and which has continued to escalate during the escalating uprising is for the sake of God, Arab solidarity, or the Arab cause? [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime was not content with implementing the desire of imperialist and Zionist forces, namely not to substitute for Egypt. Having itself abandoned the Baghdad summit's resolutions, the regime went on to call on the Arabs to abandon their commitment to these resolutions. The regime launched an unjust war against Iran with a view to downgrading the Arab-Israeli conflict and belittling the Palestinian cause. It opened fire on Syria through a spiteful media and a diplomatic war that has not yet eased. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime, which claims that it adheres to the Amman summit and its resolutions, seems to forget that the summit never ruled that Arabs should follow it into a war they completely reject, since it has inflicted disasters on the entire region, not just the Iraqi and Iranian peoples—disasters that will never be put right in such a short period of time. Who said in Amman or elsewhere that this war could only be solved by implicating the Gulf brothers in it or by expanding its zone according to plans and decisions made by the Iraqi regime?

The strange thing is: Why is it that while the regime is begging various international quarters for a way out of the war, it is so furious when a noble and courageous initiative emerges to contain the war and prevent its expansion and extinguish it, as if the regime is actually determined to burn all Arab Gulf brothers with the fire of this crazy war? Does this logic not remind us of sadistic and fascist people throughout history.

Syria has opposed this war right from the beginning. Syria's stand toward this war has been frank and clear, both before and after the Amman summit. In its analysis Syria still considers this war to be a war launched on behalf of imperialism. It is being used by forces hostile to the Arab nation as a hellish means to annihilate two struggling peoples committed to confronting the central danger represented by Zionism.

Perhaps the exposure of facts behind this war, namely that it is in the service of the United States and Israel, has reduced the world progressive forces' enthusiasm and support for the implementation of Resolution 598. Even the United States itself has done something opposite to the resolution: It began to use the war for the purpose of establishing a permanent military presence in the Gulf, while both peoples are being killed and the scale of destruction and annihilation is expanding on both sides. This is the result of the reliance of Saddam's regime on the United States, which still sees both parties' losses as important gains for its interests and those of the Zionist entity.

Let us once again say that the fury, disturbance, and imbalance in the Iraqi regime's attitudes—which are being translated into spiteful campaigns to undermine Syria, harm Arab common action, and distort the uprising in the occupied homeland—are in fact attributable to the fact that the regime has failed to realize its dream, namely to transform this war into an Arab-persian war. Perhaps it was this which prompted the head of the regime himself to lead another suspect

campaign based on corrupt trade and talk of deep sectarian differences between the Arabs and Iran—differences that logic does not approve of. No sound mind would believe in such differences; only sick minds can speak of them, since these serve no one but the enemies of the Arabs and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Meets With Foreign Delegations

Talks With Palestinians

JN071853 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received [former] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PNC Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar and Talal Naji. They talked about the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab land and its consequences.

Receives Netherlands Official

JN061934 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received (John Pierre Edward Royl), head of the Middle East desk at the Netherlands Foreign Ministry, today. Hisham Kahhalah, head of the West Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Netherlands ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

(Royl) reviewed the positive Netherlands stand in light of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The talks dealt with the current situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Amin Returns From Visits to USSR, Hungary

LD090650 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR—Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan who had gone to the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic at the head of a high-ranking state and private sector delegation, returned home on Monday.

The Afghan delegation had fruitful talks with the Soviet side on the latter assistance in setting up projects in Afghanistan with the participation of Afghan private sector and signed a protocol in this regard.

Likewise, the Afghan delegation discussed with Hungarian side matters related to further expansion and strengthening of economic and trade ties between the two countries.

PDPA Delegation Leaves for GDR, Bulgaria

LD081012 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 7, BAKHTAR—The delegation of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC) headed by Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, left here for Berlin at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany today.

The Afghan delegation will exchange views on mutual interest and extension of protocols of cooperation between the parties of the two countries.

The delegation will pay a visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria as well.

Agreement With USSR on Upgrading Port Facility

LD072144 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] An agreement between the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR concerning cooperation in the work of strengthening the banks and the building of an anchoring wall in the Hayratan was signed today. The agreement was signed for the Afghan side by Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Committee, and on the Soviet side by Aleksandr Petrov, the economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

A spokesman for the State Planning Committee said that the Hayratan port, which is one of the most important ports of the country, along with port facilities, a railway, a road, and a bridge have been built with the assistance of the Soviet Union. Its river bank has been destroyed as a result of flooding and there are no anchoring facilities for ships. The Soviet Union positively responded to a request of the Afghan side concerning the building and strengthening of the bank and the building of an anchor wall at the (?blue tower) of Hayratan and has allocated a new R15 million loan to Afghanistan. The loan will be utilized in surveying the project and the building of the river bank and the anchoring place for unloading and transferring goods.

Najibullah Get-Well Wishes to Awami Party's Khan

LD090653 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in his message addressed to Khan 'Abdul Wali Khan, chairman of Awami National Party of Pakistan has wished his immediate recovery.

The message of the president of Afghanistan was handed over to him through the Afghan Consulate in Pakistan.

'Abdul Wali Khan is currently under treatment in a Peshawar hospital.

Najibullah Address on International Women's Day

LD082045 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at a meeting marking International Women's Day at Storey Palace in Kabul on 8 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Heroic daughters and mothers of freedom-loving Afghanistan and dear compatriots:

The first words I want to say today are those of gratitude and heart felt congratulations to our mothers, wives, and sisters on the occasion of international women's day, 8 March. [passage omitted]

With confidence I say that the humane ideas of national reconciliation are understandable, above all, to all women. The tears shed on the graves of husbands, sons, and brothers are the most painful tears. They are the tears of war. There is enormous sorrow in the hearts of our women. It is the duty of the patriotic Afghan men to end this sorrow and pain of their wives and mothers, to end the war, and to bring the laughter of prosperity to the faces of their loved ones.

The new year of 1367 [beginning 21 March 1988] can rightfully be transformed into the year of peace on Afghan territory and the year of the political normalization of Afghanistan's bleeding conflict.

The new constructive proposals embodied in the statements by the Afghan leadership and by Soviet leader M.S. Gorbachev, have been turned into historic documents. The announcement of a timetable for the return of the limited contingent of Soviet troops provides the opportunity to count on the success of the Geneva talks,

the signing of all collective agreements between Afghan and Pakistan, which cover the cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of our refugee compatriots.

The successful conclusion of the Geneva talks is only half the task. The destiny of peace is today in the hands of Afghans themselves: Security and national calmness, immediate cessation of sorrows and [word indistinct] depend on the joint efforts of those compatriots who stayed apart from each other for many years because of the undeclared war.

In achieving these sacred objectives, dear women can accomplish many tasks. [passage omitted] It is the duty of every Afghan woman to raise her voice for the defense of life and peace so that through her specific duties, she can close the road against the bloody conflict that cast a shadow for many years on our misery striken land and on our ancestor's territory, and has sowed the seeds of discord, killing, and subversion.

It is the duty of every Afghan woman to clear the hearts and minds of her compatriots of rancor and blind revenge with her enormous love; to arouse in them good feelings, reciprocal understanding, and kindness; and put out the fire of fratricide which burns down meaninglessly the lives of sons and brothers.

It is the duty of every Afghan mother to bring up her children with the spirit of patriotism, internationalism, and as worthy subjects of their homeland.

It is the duty of every Afghan woman to put herself courageously in the ranks of creative persons of free, sovereign, neutral, and nonaligned Afghanistan, where a multiparty and multi-institution system forms the foundation of its political and economic life.

Dear compatriot women:

I congratulate you myself on the occasion of 8 March and my comrades are addressing the mothers, sisters, and daughters who live in camps in Iran and Pakistan in poverty and are asking for help [words indistinct]. Return to the bosom of your family. The motherland is waiting for you.

On this historic and happy day we remember the Soviet mothers. As I said in my conversation in the Kremlin Palace, by recalling the word of Afghanistan, the hearts of many mothers beat hard. I saw that many of them were shedding tears. These were the tears of those whose sons were and are serving in Afghanistan and who may have sacrificed their lives in our land.

Patriotic women of Afghanistan:

As president of the country I promise you that the government sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan, political, and social democratic organizations will defend your interests and rights and the rights of children and mothers. [applause]

Please accept our warmest congratulations on the occasion of this spring festival, the festival of youth and peace and International Women's Day. Accept our warmest wishes for family prosperity, well-being, good health, and happiness for you and your relatives.

Long live 8 March, the festival of the spring of peace. Glory to the heroic daughters of the people of Afghanistan. Glory to women and mothers, the guardians of peace. Thank you. [applause]

Najibullah Approves Pardons for Female Prisoners

LD072107 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] On the proposal of the Women's Council of Afghanistan and with the approval of President Najibullah, the remaining terms of imprisonment of some women prisoners have been rescinded while other women prisoners have had their sentences reduced by 3 years in accordance with Paragraph 8, Article 75 of the Constitution of Afghanistan and in honor of 8 March, International Women's Day.

The decrees concerning the pardoning and the reduction of prison terms have been passed to the relevant authorities.

Najibullah Attends Leftist Unity Council Meeting

LD072048 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] A meeting of the Coordination Council of the Unity of Leftist Democratic Parties of the Republic of Afghanistan took place this afternoon at the presidential headquarters. It was chaired by Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and the president of Afghanistan. A number of leaders of the PDPA, the Organization of Revolutionary Toilers of Afghanistan, the Organization of Toilers of Afghanistan, and the working group of the Coordination Council took part in the meeting.

Opening the meeting, Esteemed Najibullah information the members about the talks in Geneva, which are being conducted between the representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through the special envoy of the UN secretary general. The political platform of the Unity of the Leftist Democratic Parties of the Republic of Afghanistan and the working plan of the coordination council were comprehensively discussed. Both documents were approved unanimously. The political platform of the Unity of Leftist Democratic Parties of the Republic of Afghanistan will be brought to our compatriots through the mass media.

Mujadeddi Interviewed on 'Surprise' Resignation

BK091022 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 9 Mar 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, March 9 (AFP)—The surprise resignation of Afghan resistance leader Sebghatullah Mujadeddi from the seven-party mujahidin alliance has underlined deep divisions between its moderate and fundamentalist factions, analysts said here Wednesday.

Mr. Mujadeddi quit Monday as head of the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF), citing pressure by hardline Islamic fundamentalist factions in the alliance based in the northwest Pakistan border city of Peshawar.

In an interview published Wednesday, Mr. Mujadeddi denounced Pakistan for supporting these hardline groups and forcing the alliance to name an interim government excluding any representatives from the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul.

On February 22, the Afghan rebel alliance elected Ahmad Shah, leader of the pro-Saudi Arabian Etehad-e Eslami fundamentalist group, as head of a mujahidin transitional government by four votes to three.

Mr. Mujadeddi's son, Zabiullah, was the losing moderate candidate.

One of the three moderate resistance factions, the Islamic National Front led by Pir Sayyed Gaylani, has threatened to leave the alliance if Mr. Mujadeddi's ANLF cuts all ties with it.

Pakistan has given some 75 per cent of the mostly military aid destined for the rebels to the alliance's fundamentalist factions, Mr. Mujadeddi claimed in the interview with the FRONTIER POST newspaper, published in Peshawar.

The distribution of the mostly U.S. aid to the seven rebel groups recognised by Islamabad had favoured the Islamic fundamentalists, particularly the Hezb-e Eslami group of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, reliable sources said here.

But in the past two months, new criteria linked to military effectiveness on the ground inside Afghanistan have meant more aid going to moderate factions, the sources said.

Mr. Mujadeddi and Mr. Hikmatyar, the sources added, exchanged angry words at an alliance meeting before the election. Other reports said the two men even came close to violence, drawing their weapons.

Mujahidin fundamentalists had killed other rebels inside Afghanistan as well as moderates in Pakistan, Mr. Mujadeddi said.

"In the last two years they have even plotted my assassination," he added.

Referring to the current United Nations-sponsored Afghan peace talks in Geneva, Mr. Mujadeddi said Pakistan should not sign a draft accord until an interim government had been set up in Kabul.

The former Afghan monarch, King Zahir Shah who was deposed in 1973, could lead such a government, he said.

Islamabad has been pressing for the formation of an interim coalition government in Kabul to ensure the safe return of the estimated three million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

Even among the four fundamentalist groups there are differences, analysts said.

Mr. Hikmatyar and Rasul Sayyaf of the Etehad-e Eslami were firmly committed to a hardline position, Yunis Khalis, head of a moderate Hezb-e Eslami fundamentalist faction, and Burhanuddin Rabbani of the Jamiyat-e Eslami, were less doctrinaire, a well-informed source said here recently.

Mr. Khalis and Mr. Rabbani, anxious to avoid a split, believed Mr. Hikmatyar and Mr. Sayyaf would quit the alliance if they joined forces with the moderates, the source added.

Briefs

Soviet Aid Documents Delivered

Kabul, March 3, BAKHTAR—The documents of the aid goods of the vocational unions of the Soviet Union handed over to Satar Pordeli, chairman of Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan by V. Fedosov, charge d'affairs of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul here on Wednesday. The goods, comprising, 382 tons of goods needed by cultural and rest houses of the trade unions of Afghanistan, such as sewing machines, movie sets, stationaries and various kinds of transport vehicles. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 4 Mar 88 LD*]

Soviet Educational Aid Arrives

Kabul, March 6, BAKHTAR—The first caravan of gratis aids rendered on the basis of existing protocol by Chelyabinsk of Soviet Union arrived in Kabul on Saturday. The goods will be used up for building a friendship school in Deh Sabz district of Kabul Province. Construction work of the 20-classes of friendship school is now in full swing. The Soviet Union's cooperation as a whole and direct cooperations of Soviet regions and republics

with the Afghan provinces were hailed in a function held in that occasion at the said district. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 7 Mar 88 LD*]

Message Congratulates Ghana

Kabul, March 7, BAKHTAR—On the occasion of the national day of the Republic of Ghana a congratulatory message addressed to J.J. Rawlings, president of the Interim Council of Defence of the Republic of Ghana was sent to Accra. The message which was signed by Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan expressed [word indistinct] that the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and Ghana will further strengthen in the benefits of the people of both countries. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 8 Mar 88 LD*]

155 Rebels Surrender

Kabul, March 7, BAKHTAR—Five armed groups numbering 155 persons gave up anti-state armed activity in the suburbs of Anjeh District of Herat Province, Gowshtah District of Nangarhar Province and related areas of Helmand Province and joined process of national reconciliation during the past week. They by joining the tribal detachments in their region and establishing security posts defend the peace and tranquillity of their areas. During this period, 25 Afghan families returned from Pakistan and Iran to their abodes in the suburbs of Nangarhar, Baghlan and Herat Provinces. During last week the peace-loving people of the country took active part in foiling hostile actions of the extremist groupings as well. For instance, the residents of Qarghah'i District of Laghman Province informed the security forces of the existing [as received] of six anti-air rocket launchers in their areas. The US and British made rockets were discovered and confiscated by the security forces. [passage omitted] [Excerpt] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 8 Mar 88 LD*]

TV Networks Expand

Kabul, March 5, BAKHTAR—The TV units of Paktia, Nimruz and Jowzjan Provinces put under utilisation this year have started experimental broadcasts, a representative of the Ministry of Communications said in an interview with a BAKHTAR reporter. Equipment for Konduz and Baghlan TV units which were shipped earlier are due to be installed soon. The TV transposing project, one of the communication development projects, has been put into operation for the transmission of TV programmes to the provinces of the country, the representative said. So far TV units are installed in Qandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Badakhshan, Helmand, Balkh, Konarha and Bakhlan Provinces and the grand district of Khowst. Transmission of TV programmes through these networks for the said provinces are provided. Two TV apparatus for the strengthening of the TV transmission for Kabul are also installed, the representative noted. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0520 GMT 6 Mar 88 LD*]

India

U.S. Military Supply to Pakistan Examined

BK090848 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] India has taken up with the U.S. Government at the highest level the matter regarding Pakistan's renewed demand for airborne early warning system from that country. Stating this in the Lok Sabha today during question time, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, expressed the government's apprehension that the U.S. Administration might eventually supply such system to Pakistan. Replying to the main question, he said though no final decision has been taken by the U.S. Government on the matter, judging from its past record we have an apprehension that such sophisticated weapons might be supplied to Pakistan. Asked about how far the supply of the early warning system to Pakistan would affect India's security, Mr Natwar Singh said our security will not be allowed to be endangered. Mr Natwar Singh said the matter was also brought to the notice of the U.S. under secretary of state, Mr Armacost, during his recent visit to this country.

In a written reply to another question, Mr Natwar Singh said the government is maintaining a close vigil on the developments having a bearing on the country's security. He said a dialogue with Pakistan is being maintained to improve mutual relations. The foreign secretaries of the two countries are expected to meet for an across the board discussion in this regard.

Strike in New Delhi Evokes 'Partial Response'

BK090900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] In Delhi, the Bharatiya Janata Party-Lok Dal-B-sponsored bundh [strike] has evoked partial response. Shops and business establishments in the major markets remained closed. However, industrial establishments are functioning normally. Buses, taxis and auto-rickshaws are also plying.

A team of AIR correspondents who went round the city report elaborate police arrangements have been made in view of the bundh.

The call for the bundh has been given in protest against alleged corruption, price rise, terrorist killings in Punjab, and in support of farmers' problems. Essential services like water, electricity, and DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] services have been exempted. However, some disruption was caused due to rerouting of buses in view of the rally being held by the two parties at the Boat Club.

Thousands Attend Anti-Sikh, Anti-Gandhi Rally

BK090958 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 9 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of north Indians demonstrated here Wednesday against Sikh separatist killings in Punjab and called for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to quit, witnesses said.

Police said about 85,000 people joined the rally, coinciding with an opposition-sponsored general strike which virtually paralysed commercial and industrial activity in the capital.

Opposition party organisers estimated about 150,000 people from Hindu-dominated Haryana State, which borders Punjab, responded to the call from the state's ruling Lok Dal (Masses' Party) to assemble here.

They poured into the capital on lorries, tractors and buses and assembled at parkland near Parliament where police said they had deployed about 10,000 men to prevent possible violence.

Some 25,000 policemen were deployed across the city for the strike called by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party [Indian People's Party—BJP] and supported by the Lok Dal, officials said.

A similar strike was being observed in Haryana mainly to protest against the government's failure to stem Sikh separatist violence which has claimed about 430 lives this year in Punjab.

The capital's main trading centres observed the strike. Essential services such as public transport were unaffected and attendance at government offices appeared normal.

The BJP's Delhi chapter leader Madan Lal Khurana Tuesday said his party would mobilise 30,000 activists to help police maintain law and order in the city. The BJP exempted schools, colleges and buses from the general strike.

Sikh Militants' Candidate To Head Golden Temple

BK091104 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 9 (AFP)—The Sikh militants candidate was enthroned Wednesday as the new head priest at Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest shrine in Sikhdom, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Jasbir Singh Rode, a nephew of the late Sikh fundamentalist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who sowed the seeds of the separatist movement and died in a June 1984 army assault on the temple, was released from jail on sedition charges last Friday. [passage omitted]

Mr. Jasbir Singh is the 17th and, at 34, the youngest man to be installed as the priest controlling the Golden Temple's Akal Takht (throne beyond time), the seat which symbolises the temporal authority of God.

The installation ceremony at the Golden Temple in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, which PTI said was attended by several Sikh militant, political and religious leaders, came just five days after he was freed from prison along with four other high priests. [passage omitted]

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (Sikh temple managing committee), considered to be the Sikh religious parliament, named him head priest Tuesday.

PATRIOT on Need To Review Punjab Policy

BK061520 Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Punjab Dead-End"]

[Text] It is a sad commentary on the state of affairs that it should take a bout of terrorist killings every time to focus official attention on the Punjab problem and attempt—or at least a show of it—at rethinking in this regard. The wanton extremist crimes of the last weekend, in which 34 lives have been lost, have inspired yet another repetition of the ritual. And, true to pattern, the same twin remedies, if they may be called so despite their seeming mutual contradiction, have been brought up for discussion. It is again being asserted that no efforts will be spared to put down the violent challenge with firmness and that no stone will be left unturned for a political solution by which the Government swears with the same vehemence and proposals meant to be implemented only in part.

The apparently new development this time round is the emergence of a suggestion for a constitutional amendment to pave the way for extension of President's rule in the troubled border State. The appearance in this case, however, is quite deceptive. For, the suggestion has in fact nothing to do with any solution. It only seeks to delay the unpleasant task of deciding on the latter. After all the show of toughness in effecting such a statutory change, the questions will still remain, nonetheless nagging for such short-term political and petty gains that this may fetch for those in powers trying in vain to cover up their utter bewilderment in the face of the complex challenge. After President's rule, which after all has to end some day, what? If a political settlement, what kind and with whom? And what prevents attempts at it right now? Have the right lessons been learnt from the course of a peaceful counter-move to the secessionist menace that was abandoned half way, or from the employment of force against it that has never been free from inhibiting theories about scope for dialogues with all and sundry?

The questions need to be faced and cannot be evaded any longer. All the more because the kind of external assistance for the anti-national elements, about which

President R. Venkataraman has been constrained to speak out in his first address to Parliament, is apt to register an increase in the event of an Afghan settlement enabling Islamabad to give even greater attention to its anti-India undertakings. Recognition that the Punjab policy, as pursued thus far, has reached a dead-end must precede any meaningful rethinking about the problem.

38 GNLF Activists Arrested; Bombs Recovered

BK081621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The West Bengal government will introduce the Darjeeling Hill Development Bill in the current session of the state assembly. Giving this information to newsmen in Calcutta today, the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said a team is being sent to Delhi soon to hold discussions with the Center in this regard. He said he is awaiting a positive response to resume the dialogue for a political solution to the problem.

Meanwhile, 38 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were arrested from Darjeeling and Kalimpong subdivisions today. Sixteen pipe-guns, several bombs, and explosive materials were recovered during the raids. The activists threw a number of bombs in Darjeeling today but there was no damage. The Happy Valley power station in Darjeeling was damaged by bomb explosions. Power supply has, however, been restored.

12 Killed, 12 Injured in Air Force Plane Crash

BK081607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Twelve persons were killed and 12 injured when an IAF [Indian Air Force] transport plane crashed near village Mancheswar in the Cuttack District of Orissa today. The dead included five Air Force personnel, four of their family members, and three villagers. All the injured were from the village. The condition of seven of them is said to be critical.

The plane caught fire half an hour after take off from the Aviation Research Center, Charbatia. The blazing fuselage of the plane broke up and fell on houses resulting in the death of three villagers. A number of houses and shops were gutted.

Paper Views Delhi's Stand on Afghanistan

BK061001 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
29 Feb 88 p 11

[Editorial: "Mission to Pakistan"]

[Text] Only the naive in the government would have thought that President Ziaul Haq would come rushing to Delhi on just a telephone call. The intentions behind New Delhi's suggestion to invite President Ziaul Haq were genuine but it did not take into account the implications of what was an easily predictable response from Islamabad. The decision to send Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon to Pakistan can at best be a face-saving way out of an embarrassment. Mr Menon is unlikely to achieve much in Islamabad although official the spokesman will make us believe that his talks there were frank and friendly and that the two sides exchanged views on a wide range of subjects, including of course Afghanistan.

Relations with Pakistan continue to be frozen and even well-meaning Indian moves are suspect in Islamabad. Pakistan has been particularly allergic to India playing a role in Afghanistan. This was evident when Mrs Indira Gandhi sent Mr Swaran Singh in 1980 to Pakistan with the message that India was ready to be of help in finding a solution of the Afghanistan problem. Pakistan turned down Indian overtures, which included an offer of friendship and instead, it chose the American option to meet its security needs and receive massive quantities of arms to boost its military strength against India. Mr Menon is not likely to succeed where Mr Swaran Singh failed eight years ago.

New Delhi has to reconcile itself with the visits to Delhi of the two superpowers' emissaries like Mr Yuliy Yorontsov of the Soviet Union and Mr Michael Armacost of the United States, with both of them emphasising the need for an Indian role in the situation arising out of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Geopolitically, Indian concern in the area is understandable; whether India is in a position to influence events in Afghanistan is questionable.

The Russians are leaving Afghanistan without bothering to provide an arrangement that would prove stable and be acceptable to various elements that want to have a say in the running of that country. Mr Mikhail Gorbachev says that it is none of his business to determine who rules Afghanistan after his boys have reached home. He may be right in making the withdrawal of Soviet troops his priority, but to accept the view that Moscow is totally indifferent to a future set-up in Afghanistan will be a mistake.

Apparently, Mr Gorbachev has come to believe that the ruling pro-Moscow People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (the PDPA), which has by now 150,000 well-trained soldiers and an equal number of militia men on its rolls, can control the seat of authority in Kabul, ideally under King Zahir Shah who may still be persuaded to return from his exile in Rome. In Moscow's reckoning in case the Mujahidin groups—who do not want to join a national government with the PDPA having a major share in it—choose to fight it out, the PDPA would be able to hold on in Kabul and around even if its writ does not run in the interior. In any case many tribes in Afghanistan have never accepted Kabul's authority but have lived with it without creating much trouble for it.

Apparently, Pakistan is discovering that Mr Gorbachev has reached a settlement on Afghanistan with President Reagan. Washington's priority is also on the withdrawal

of Soviet troops and not on what kind of government they leave behind in Kabul. It is possible that Washington and Islamabad are no longer thinking alike on Afghanistan; unlike the United States, Pakistan is keen that a neat political Afghan set-up should be worked out by an agreement before the Soviet troops begin pulling out on May 15. Pakistan may also have been nursing the hope that the PDPA government would crumble after the Russians begin leaving, but it is realising now this may not happen for some time. Pakistan's current aim is to ensure greater representation for the Peshawar-based Mujahidin groups along with convenient elements from within Afghanistan and without the PDPA having a decisive say in the interim government. Only this, in Pakistan's view, can ensure stability in Afghanistan and the return of 3 million Afghan refugees living on its soil.

India has lately been in touch with various elements that can have influence in Afghanistan—Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh has met King Zahir Shah, President Najibullah has been to India; and lately, Delhi has talked to leaders of the Mujahidin groups in Pakistan and Iran as also Afghan intellectuals living in Europe and elsewhere. Apparently, New Delhi is keen that a government of national reconciliation, with adequate representation for the PDPA, should come into existence in Kabul under King Zahir Shah's umbrella and with a share for the moderates—and not the fundamentalists—among the Mujahidins.

New Delhi's view is that without a government enjoying wide acceptance Afghanistan can get caught in a bloody civil war that can have only adverse repercussions in the region. This means India and Pakistan are looking at the Afghanistan question from different points of view. Mr Menon can only make an attempt to convince Pakistan that a more reasonable attitude on its part will help in making this week's crucial Geneva talks a success and that is in everybody's interest. Realist that Mr Menon is, he is unlikely to be going to Pakistan with the illusion about India's capacity to influence Pakistan's policy.

Iran

Missile Attacks, Ground, Sea Operations Continue

2 Missiles Fired at Al-Mawsil

LD081437 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—Two Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were fired at two Iraqi military centers in Al-Mawsil, northern Iraq, Tuesday evening in retaliation for the ongoing Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iran's cities.

Announcing the above, the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) reported here today that Iran's retaliatory measures will continue until the enemy stops its criminal acts.

The missiles were fired by the IRGC missile unit and brings to 3 the number of missiles slammed into Al-Mawsil since yesterday.

Communique No 3,135

LD081625 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—Iranian missile and artillery units heavily pounded military and economic centers in Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Khanaqin and Mandali, oil installations in Banmil and Naft Khaneh as well as a power station, a garrison and a match-manufacturing factory in Al-Sulaymaniyah from last evening till dawn Tuesday.

The 3135th joint staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on the enemy in Iran's reprisal shelling.

Early Tuesday, Iran's Muslim combatants launched a limited attack on Iraqi positions around Naft-e Shah, western sector, killing 200 enemy soldiers and capturing several others including Lieutenant Jabbar Musa of Brigade 80 of Iraq's 16th Division. A large amount of Iraqi military equipment was also seized and transferred behind the fronts by Iranian combatants.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Shalamcheh, southern sector, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy vehicles and five munitions dumps destroyed.

Iranian artillery fire yesterday checked Iraqi logistical operations in Nahr 'Anbar and Helaleh fronts, western sector, inflicting heavy losses on enemy troops.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy command jeep and five bunkers destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the navy, concluded the communique.

12 Killed in Esfahan, Qom, Tehran

LD081657 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The war-mongering Iraqi regime, continuing its attacks against our country's residential areas, today once again subjected to missile attacks the cities of Esfahan, Qom, and Tehran. According to initial calculations, as a result of these brutal attacks 12 of our compatriots, including 1 woman and 2 children, were

martyred. A number were also wounded. The aggressor Iraqi regime's dastardly attacks on these three cities also damaged several houses, stores, a medical center, and several vehicles.

21 Killed in Tehran, Esfahan

LD090415 Tehran IRNA in English 0411 GMT 9 Mar 88

["Iraqi Missiles Take Heavy Tolls in Tehran and Esfahan"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Residential areas in Tehran and Esfahan were hit by Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles Tuesday night.

In Tehran 21 civilians mainly women and children lost their lives and many others were wounded. The missile attack on Esfahan also took a substantial toll of civilians. Some houses and shops were damaged in both cities.

IRGC Fires 28th Missile

LD090813 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0755 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to an announcement from the IRGC General Staff that we have just received: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In retaliation for the enemy's recent atrocities, the 28th long-range missile of the forces of Islam again shattered Baghdad, the capital of the criminal leaders of the Iraqi Zionist regime. The IRGC General Staff announced in a communique that in retaliation for shedding the blood of infant martyrs during yesterday's enemy missile attacks on the residential areas of Tehran, Esfahan and Qom, at 1000 this morning another surface-to-surface missile was fired by the IRGC Air Force missile unit at an important military target of the Iraqi regime in Baghdad.

This communique warns the rulers of Baghdad that the retaliatory operations of the forces of Islam will continue until the cessation of their atrocities.

29th Missile Fired at Baghdad

LD090824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0806 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to another communique that we have just received from the IRGC General Staff: In continuation of the deterrent measures of the fighters of Islam, the 29th powerful missile of the victorious fighters of the corps of monotheism was launched at Baghdad.

In a communique, the IRGC General Staff announces: Following the firing of the earlier surface-to-surface missile at 1000 at an important military center in Baghdad, in retaliation for the blood of martyrs of the recent missile attacks of the enemy on our country's cities, in order to stop the Zionist enemy, and in line with the deterrent measures of the corps of Islam, the IRGC Air Force fired another surface-to-surface missile at 1005 this morning at an important military center of the enemy in Baghdad. The corps of Islam will continue deterrent operations until the blasphemous Ba'thists halt their criminal deeds.

35 Killed, 120 Injured

LD091040 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 9, OANA/IRNA—Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran Tuesday and Wednesday claimed at least 35 lives and injured 120. Among victims rescued unhurt from under the debris of collapsed buildings Tuesday was an eighty-year-old woman.

Air Force Bombs Al-'Amarah

LD091046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announces: At 1315 today, several Air Force fighter bombers heavily bombed the enemy positions and military equipment in the Al-'Amarah operational theater. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the criminal Saddamists, all planes safely returned to base.

Iraqi Missiles Hit Tehran 9 Mar

LD091421 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—The Iraqi Ba'thist regime in continuation of its criminal acts again struck residential areas of the capital with surface-to-surface missiles Wednesday. There is yet no report on the number of casualties and losses.

Meanwhile, following the Tuesday night missile attack on civilian quarters in Tehran, relief workers managed to pull out a 80-year old woman alive from under the debris of collapsed houses.

According to another report, two villages in Gilan Province bordering the Caspian Sea, were bombed by Iraqi warplanes at noon today. Any report on casualties or losses is not yet available.

WIH Spokesman on Deterrence

LD081656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Following the missile attack on Al-Mawsil by the combatants of Islam, the WIH spokesman announced: The operations of the fighters of Islam are purely deterrent. They will continue until the enemy has ceased his mischief. He said: We have never been in favor of the war of cities. We consider the fronts to be the main arena of the battle. Whenever the enemy ceases its mischief, we will be prepared to halt our deterrent measures.

Commander on Damage to Iraq

LD090944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Telephone conversation between Refan, commander of the IRGC Air Force, and unidentified studio announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Good morning, Mr Refan. If possible, could you please tell our listeners what has been the effect of Iran's long-range and middle-range missiles on the internal situation in Iraq and the city of Baghdad.

[Refan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Due to the destructive power and accuracy of our missiles, and according to reports we have received from inside Iraq, Baghdad has sustained the great damage in the course of the war as a result of our surface-to-surface missiles, as have other cities that have been targetted by our missiles. One can say that in this round of the war of the cities, the Iraqi cities have suffered greater damage.

[Announcer] My second question is: Could you please tell us, in the event that the Ba'thist Iraqi regime continues and expands the war of the cities, what measures have been taken by the IRGC Air Force to stop them?

[Refan] The main policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to give the final word to Saddam only on the battlefronts. [sentence as heard] However, if Saddam engages in greater atrocities in the war of the cities, we are able to increase our missile attacks on Baghdad several times and even to attack other important Iraqi cities.

[Announcer] Brother Refan, can you please make a comparison between the type and effectiveness of the missiles used by Iraq and the missiles fired by Iran?

[Refan] In comparison with our missiles, their missiles have a much weaker destructive force and a much lower accuracy. We can say that our missiles have four times the destructive power of the missiles used by the Iraqi regime.

[Announcer] Thank you. We wish you even greater success.

Official Discusses Missile Capabilities

LD091044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0745 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Dear listeners, in connection with the Ba'thist enemy's recent atrocities, we have come to the IRGC missile industries unit to interview the official in charge of it. While thanking our brother for granting this interview, I want first of all to ask him what is the IRGC Ministry's missile response and missile capability in retaliating against the atrocities of the Ba'thist enemy?

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] As the esteemed commander of the IRGC Air Force has said, as far as our missile capability is concerned, the missiles we use have about four times the destructive power of theirs. The IRGC Ministry has made extraordinary advances in missiles. Sometime ago, I was reading a Japanese magazine that referred to Iran as Asia's second missile power. This is not idle chatter, because different types of rockets are being manufactured inside our country, some guided and some unguided missiles, in the three fields that strengthen our defense: antitank, surface-to-air, and surface-to-surface missiles.

In all these fields fundamental work has started, some of which has produced good results. God willing, by displaying their capabilities—their moving, firing, and guidance, and the destruction of the targets, some of which our martyr-nurturing nation has seen for itself on television—the people can see that our achievements are very important.

The missiles that we are working on are the same ones on which advanced countries around the world and the superpowers are working and in which they are investing. They have spent years working on them before achieving the present results. We can claim that in the time we have spent in this work, we have achieved something close to their level—in some cases in much less time. This is important, because if we compare our technological capability with theirs, we see that, despite all their technological power and their scientific capability, they have achieved results with the passage of time, and we, in the same period, despite the fact that our technological and scientific capabilities are far behind theirs, have achieved definite results over the same period. [end recording]

The official in charge of the IRGC missile industries continued his remarks and answered a question from our reporter regarding the specifications of the missiles manufactured in Iran and how they compare with foreign missiles, as well as about the expertise needed for manufacturing the missiles and the need to attract more experts to this field. He said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] A missile can be called a missile only when it obtains the necessary accuracy. Therefore, we are forced to ensure that what we manufacture can compete with theirs and can replace

them. Therefore, as far as quality is concerned, ours are exactly the same as theirs. I cannot say now that they are better, but in view of the ideas being used in their manufacture, we may be able to achieve better quality in the future.

The main point is that, fortunately, we have a rich society in terms of different types of expertise. When we deal with missiles we see that different types of expertise are needed and all those types of expertise should join together so that we can manufacture a missile with a high degree of accuracy, both in targetting and destructive forces. Therefore, in such missile activities we need different types of expertise. When I was talking to one of our experts who used to work in a European plant, he said that missile manufacturing requires about 5,000 experts. It does not mean that all those 5,000 experts should be together in one center and work together there at one time.

However, in the manufacturing of missiles one needs a group of people with different expertise. Therefore, if there are any experts, and there certainly are, in different fields—in the fields of solid and fluid mechanics; electricity and electronics; computers; in different types of designs that are needed; in metallurgy; in management and design engineering; in chemistry, petrochemicals, and polymers; and all different technical expertise that they have studied in Iranian or foreign universities—their expertise is needed.

Now, when we are under missile attack, we should equip ourselves; and in order to equip ourselves, those with expertise should come forward and work together. We invite all experts in these fields to cooperate with us. They can get in touch with the IRGC deputy minister in charge of self-sufficiency, and after an interview determining their expertise they can work on one of these projects as soon as possible, so that we can become one of the few missile powers of the world. [end recording]

Musavi Welcomes USSR Proposal To End Cities War
LD091037 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Wednesday welcomed the Soviet proposal for halting the war of the cities, but commented that the indifference of the Security Council indicates its ill-intention and its inhuman stance towards Iraq-Iran conflict.

"We await details of the Soviet proposal and believe that it would benefit all countries if attacks on cities and economic centers and resources were banned by the Security Council," the premier told reporters.

Prime Minister Musavi emphasized that the Iranian people are aware that their struggle and resistance will safeguard their independence and that the enemy feeling weak at war fronts endeavors [as received] to neutralize their resistance by attacking civilian quarters.

Thanking the Iranian people for their commitment to Islam and their cooperation with the government Prime Minister Musavi said that the government will build more shelters to protect people from Iraq's brutal raids and will make the entirety of Iran "a fortress against invaders."

The prime minister, and several Cabinet ministers also planted several trees at the Prime Ministry's court on the occasion of tree-planting week which was earlier described by the prime minister as a token of "the people's struggle to construct the country braving showers of Iraqi missiles."

Khamene'i Visits Bombed Area
LD081457 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i paid a surprise visit today to a less-privileged residential area of the capital hit by an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile recently, and was warmly welcomed by local people fervently chanting revolutionary slogans.

The president inspected ruins of a house struck by the Iraqi missile and expressed condolences to the bereaved relatives of seven members of a household martyred in the enemy missile attack.

Khamene'i, who doubles as the chairman of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said that such criminal attacks have served to make Iran's Muslim people more determined than ever, and vowed Iran will strike back at the enemy with severer blows.

The Iraqi Ba'thist regime improvised these missiles with the help of Western powers, noted the president, questioning could these powers do any good to it forever. [sentence as received] The Ba'thist rulers will soon be forced to their knees and face their doomed fate, he added.

Iran's Muslim people will soon identify the accomplices in Ba'thist Iraq's criminal acts, something which will leave adverse effects on Iran's relations with them, the SDC head said.

At the end of his speech, the president was seen off by people amid slogans such as "Death to the U.S." and "Death to the Soviet Union."

Red Crescent Head on 'Silence' Over Atrocities

LD071357 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society Vahid Dastjerdi in a message to International Red Crescent and Red Cross officials Monday said that silence of international bodies toward atrocities of the Iraqi regime will only encourage the Baghdad regime to commit more war crimes.

Referring to the latest round of Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran now in its second week, the message said the Baghdad regime has not even spared hospitals, nurseries and similar establishments claiming lives of many infants, children and women.

Residential areas of provincial cities like those in Tehran have also been subjected to repeated Iraqi missile and air attacks, it said.

Escalation of the Iraqi atrocities is in violation of all international regulations and humanitarian principles and unprecedented in the history of mankind, it added.

Dastjerdi warned the international bodies of the consequences of their silence and urged them to meet their responsibilities and condemn Iraqi violations and take effective measures to stop these Iraqi crimes.

Official Details Work Dealing With Bomb Damage

LD071356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] A press conference given by Mr Hamid Mirzadeh, deputy prime minister in charge of executive affairs and minister in charge of the headquarters for the support and coordination of executive affairs for bombed areas, in which he comments on the activities of the support committees building shelters and implementing plans to provide temporary housing for citizens, is the subject of our last news today.

The deputy prime minister in charge of executive affairs referred to the formation of nine committees at the headquarters for the support and coordination of executive affairs for the bombed areas and said: The headquarters includes the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministries of Interior; Health, Treatment and Medical Education; Commerce; Construction Jihad; Housing and Urban Development; Foundation for Immigrants Affairs; the Red Crescent Society; and the Islamic Revolution Committees. Through its nine committees in charge of supplies, services, shelters, relief, security and police, treatment, temporary housing, education and publicity, repair, and reconstruction, the headquarters is active in Tehran and in other provinces.

In order to continue to fortify the cities, work on building shelters is going on. To date, more than 8,058 concrete shelters have been built in schools, hospitals, and in other public places that are usually attacked by the Zionist enemy. This work will continue this year as well. He added: For this purpose, Article 9 of next year's budget devotes 50 billion rials to reconstruction, compensation for damage, and construction of shelters. In the past year, the highest percentage of employment belongs to provinces which were threatened by bombing by the Zionist enemy. During that time, 161 residential and commercial units were repaired or reconstructed, and 36,212 other units are in the process of being repaired. Work on these units will be completed by the end of spring.

Regarding the damage sustained by the people at the hands of the Zionist enemy in the war of the cities, Mr Mirzadeh said: We open compensation files for all damaged units as soon as the damage is sustained and provide the necessary help. In order to maintain employment levels in the damaged areas and to help with the reconstruction work, 40 billion rials has been put aside for the victims. The official in charge of the headquarters for support and coordination of the executive affairs for the bombed areas declared that the government's policy next year will include compensating for damage, continuing to build concrete shelters to fortify cities, and to rebuild damaged areas. He added: Compensation will include replacing damaged household goods and cars, and rebuilding residential or commerical units according to the headquarters' regulations.

He added: In Tehran, as in other damaged areas, compensation and work on reconstruction have started and will continue as quickly as possible. In this connection, shelters in hospitals and schools have priority. The official in charge of the support headquarters stressed the need for cooperation from citizens to build more shelters by using the financial facilities provided by the headquarters and the banks. He said: At present, in addition to 925 shelters built in Tehran's schools, doors to all other shelters and reinforced basements of the ministries will be open to the public 24 hours a day. Very soon, metro shelters of 3.5 km will become available as well. Work on building shelters in some of Tehran's hospitals has also been included on the agenda and the necessary material and equipment have been supplied.

He added: In order to make minimize the destructive effects of the Zionist enemy's attacks and the damage, relief and [words indistinct] groups have been formed in ministries which are on alert 24 hours a day, including holidays, across all provinces threatened by bombing or missile attacks by the enemy. Support headquarters work 24 hours a day.

The official in charge of the headquarters for the support of the bombed areas said: One of the most important achievements of the support headquarters in the provinces has been to find temporary housing for the citizens. Plans have been drawn up and implemented by the

headquarters housing committee. The Ministries of Construction Jihad; Health, Treatment and Medical Education; Roads and Transport; Post, Telegraph and Telephone; Industries, as well as the Red Crescent Society, the Housing Organization, and the Foundation of the Oppressed, are responsible for preparing the basic plans for temporary housing. Once the temporary housing plans are implemented, dear Tehrani citizens will have the opportunity to make use of these facilities.

U.S., Western Support for Iraq Condemned

LD091121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Following U.S. and Western countries' efforts to stop the positive steps taken by the UN to end the Iraqi regime's attacks on our country's residential areas, the WIH spokesman has announced: The action by the United States and some Western countries, including Britain, once again proves that the ruling circles of these countries had a hand in persuading and encouraging Iraq in its resumption of attacks on Iran's residential areas. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite its lack of hope in international circles, welcomed the fact that the UN secretary general proposed to end the attacks. This was based on the humane values and beliefs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: The U.S. efforts of the last 2 days and those of some Western countries to implement the plans for ending attacks on Iran's residential areas indicates precisely that these countries want the Iraqi regime to continue its crimes. He stressed: Just as we have repeatedly announced, we do not want civilians to become entangled in the war, but U.S. actions in the UN show that one must not put one's hopes in international circles because of criminal American influence on them. To put an end to the enemy's crimes, we must turn their nests of wickedness into piles of rubble.

The WIH spokesman stressed: The fighters of Islam, in retaliation for the enemy's inhuman attacks, and with a strong and unbreakable will, have now turned the heavy fire of their missiles, aircraft, and long-range artillery on Iraq's economic, military, urban, and industrial institutions. They will not stop until they have brought the enemy to total abjectness.

Commentary Criticizes Foreign Propaganda

LD081831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1716 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In connection with the war of the cities, one of the issues which attracted the attention of discerning people was the treatment of the matter by the arrogant mass media. The media, especially foreign radios—including the BBC—tried to use Saddam's ploy with missiles as a propaganda and psychological lever to force Iran to capitulate.

The foreign radios reported in great detail that Saddam had obtained long-range missiles, and called on expert opinion to further sensationalize the matter. Then, exactly 3 days after the start of the war of the cities, the BBC falsely reported that the Iranian authorities had adopted a more flexible attitude toward UN Resolution No 598, and had accepted it in a way.

The broadcasting of this report, particularly at the height of the war of the cities went into lengthy detail about the Iranian authorities having compromised over the peace resolution, when the war of the cities was being intensified and Tehran was being showered with missiles. This makes people think that the Iranian authorities have been forced to accept peace because of public pressure and out of fear of these missiles. If this were true, the Baghdad regime would have intensified the missile attacks, with higher morale and added strength, so that it could gain more advantage that way. [passage omitted]

All this propaganda, particularly at the height of the war of the cities, clearly shows that the foreign media are biased toward the Baghdad regime and also that they exaggerate the missile attacks on Tehran. For many scientific and tangible reasons, the Iraqi regime has failed in its new plot and has suffered more than its rival. So why should we have been more flexible? And, as hardship and problems have so far failed to force us to compromise, why should they do so now? Have these lying hornblowers of colonialism really benefited so much from these tricks that they have now resorted to a new one?

Commentary Calls for Construction of Shelters

LD061324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The wicked attacks by the Zionist regime on the residential districts of our country continued today. Our nation's resistance against these wicked inhuman and cowardly plots has been glorious and admirable. [passage omitted]

Today, the enemy's missile attacks on Tehran have made us think about a fundamental necessity, one that other countries have thought about and planned for in peace time. This necessity concerns building bomb shelters in districts of large cities in the event of missile attacks, making use of our national resources with the active participation of the people, particularly students of construction sciences. Why should a part of the student force of our country, a part of the domestic resources of our Islamic homeland, not be used to meet this fundamental need? We should not allow all of our human resources and our country's technical and industrial capabilities to be placed within the enemy's firing range.

Attending to these needs is among the first priorities for a nation which, in a world of blasphemy, has risen to defend humanity and its legitimate rights. Building missile shelters in districts and continuing our efforts to make even further progress in the military industries will disrupt the pipedreams of the world colonialists and will teach our enemies not to try to force a free nation to make peace or to surrender by their missile attacks. A peace agreement that is written by missiles on bloody houses at the price of the lives of the innocent, is more bloody than the war, more disgraceful than shame, and sadder than death.

That is why the unhealthy motives and UN Resolution No 598, which has never been accepted by our nation's public opinion and the freedom-seeking nations of the world, quickly lose itheir practical implications. This is because the increasingly wicked deeds of the Zionist regime are clearly carried out on U.S. orders using the weapons supplied by America's anti-imperialist friends. Thus, this resolution is clearly a document proving the lies, deceits, and imperialist savagery unprecedented in the annals of history.

Official Describes Marine Industries, Training

LD071542 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1335 GMT 7 Mar 88

[From the "Reconstruction Jihad" program]

[Excerpts] Greetings, dear listeners of the "Reconstruction Jihad" program. We are now with Brother Hasan-Pur, the official responsible for maritime operations of the War Support Headquarters of the Construction Jihad, stationed at Nuh-e Nabi Headquarters. I will ask him to explain his activities in that sector—maritime operations.

[Hasan-Pur] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the dear leader of the Islamic Revolution and martyrs of the revolution from the early days of Islam to the Islamic Revolution of Iran. As you know, the War Support Headquarters is present at the operational sites, on the southern and western fronts, as well as engaged in engineering operations on the Persian Gulf coast. The maritime operations of Nuh Headquarters are comprised of maritime transport and marine industries.

Maritime transport includes the naval transport fleet, which is stationed in three places—Bandar-e Emam, Bushehr, and Bander-e 'Abbas. In each area, it is responsible for maritime transport, including personnel and the necessary engineering machinery and equipment.

The marine industries has two sections: One is the technical and engineering office; the second repairs and renovates vessels. Major technical work on vessels is carried out in this section. Vessels needed for transport are designed in the technical engineering office where the necessary calculations are made. Then its construction is either assigned to our repair and renovation section or to factories in the country.

I should add here that, thank God, our brothers here have been very active. So far, they have designed and built a number of vessels needed in the war theaters. They have also acquired engines and installed them. We are now using these same vessels. There are 90-ton, 50-ton, and 500-ton vessels which have been successfully built, thank God, and which we are using in this area. Most of our maritime transport operations are carried out using vessels which have been built by these dear ones. [passage omitted]

In the repair and reconstruction section, repairs are carried out at the same time that ships are being built. These include major repairs such as repairing machinery, main engines, generators, winches, and others. Hull repairs are done here, also. Every ship, after a specific period at sea, should be brought in so that its hull can be stripped, sandblasted, and painted. All these activities take place in the repair section.

In addition to these two sections, there is the training center which is responsible for training needed personnel. This mainly involves training students to sail, pilot ships, and to learn about the engines in the medium-sized ships. Our forces have taken courses in these areas and these same forces are, thanks be to God, active at present.

[Announcer] As Brother Hasan-Pur mentioned in his speech, the Nuh-e Nabi base has tried to train all specialized and nonspecialized forces according to their position. Paying attention to such a matter can turn Nuh-e Nabi base into a marine defense support academy. Brother Hasan-Pur, would you please tell us from what section of the society do the personnel of this section come?

[Hasan-Pur] Just as on all our battlefronts, popular forces are actively present, the same is true of this section. The majority of the forces now active at the base are popular forces. They come from different areas of the country. These forces are actively present even at the most remote islands. A large part of the work is done by these forces.

[Announcer] Brother Hasan-Pur, as the official in charge of maritime operations, would you please tell us about the importance of the Persian Gulf for us and for Iran?

[Hasan-Pur] As you are aware, the Islamic Republic of Iran is situated along the Persian Gulf where it has about 1,200 km of coastline, quite apart from the islands we own in the Persian Gulf and the Bushehr area. This shows the importance of the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran along the Gulf coast and in its islands. Facing us are the Arab countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait,

and the UAE. The Gulf itself is an area of interest to world arrogance and every once in a while this region was occupied in the interests of certain forces.

Today, world arrogance and the world-devouring United States have brought their forces to the region in order to prevent Saddam's certain fall. However, the Hezbollahi ummah have had an active presence on this front as well, and have maintained a desirable state of readiness which has prevented enemy moves in the region. We hope that the raging flood of the Hezbollahi ummah, which can be seen on all fronts, will cleanse this region from the filthy presence of the world-devouring United States.

[Announcer] God willing. Well, in conclusion, would you like to send a message to the Iranian nation?

[Hasan-Pur] What message can I give the people? The people themselves, thank God, have done their duty very well and have proved this point by their presence. What I can say as their younger brother is that, God willing, we will all heed the behests of his excellency the imam, pay attention to these remarks, and, God willing, act according to them.

[Announcer] I thank you and hope that you will be successful in whatever you do.

[Hasan-Pur] Thank you.

Battlefronts More Important Than War of Cities
LD071944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Mar 88

["Note of the Day" commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Nowadays continuous reports are heard all over Baghdad and in the news and diplomatic circles about the struggles of the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries. During the past 2 months, the sound of explosions and scattered clashes between Muslim revolutionaries and the security forces of Iraq in the city center has been more resonant than in the past.

Under the pretext of an emergency evacuation of Baghdad, the Iraqi regime has started a full-scale security and intelligence search of houses in the city. By placing each family in a tent, it has assigned to a Ba'thist intelligence officer the security and intelligence responsibility for each group of tent-dwelling Baghdad families.

With this fresh crime, the regime of Saddam thinks it can uproot the liberation struggles of the Iraqi nation. While the struggles of the Iraqi nation continue under oppression, its effects will be clearly evident throughout the region.

On the other hand, there is another important question. That is, what is our divine, religious, and national duty in the face of Saddam's new wave of crimes? People are asking each other: Is it right for us to sit and do nothing about enemy missile attacks on our homes? Is it right to put up with all the crimes of Saddam? Is it right for a missile to wreck a home every minute, killing some of our brothers and sisters, and for us not to embark on a fresh move to fight the enemy of our nation, homeland, ideology, and existance? What is the answer?

It is clear that safeguarding one's life and security is the first principle of our revolutionary resistance. Therefore, using shelters, observing safety and relief regulations, and extensive popular efforts to build new shelters in various places are strongly recommended and emphasized. However, the major reply to the enemy should be given at the fronts. Although our retaliatory measures are necessary, they are not sufficient. It does not pain Saddam to see the Iraqi people getting killed; it gives him pleasure and makes him happy. That is why, every once in a while, he attacks our country's residential areas, in order to elicit our inevitable retaliation. Therefore, it is the battle on the fronts which will uproot mischief.

Our IRGC and Armed Forces commanders must draw up fresh and convincing plans for continued operations, and they do. They must not rely on international imperialism's recommendations on peace and security, and they do not. On the other hand, our youths must rush to the fronts to do with their rifles to the cobwebbed new-age ignorance what the Prophet Abraham did with his axe, for the victory of monotheism.

Commentary Views UN Resolution No 598
NC090940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group entitled "The Islamic Republic of Iran and Security Council Resolution No 598"]

[Text] The Iraqi regime's missile and air attacks continue on Tehran and on our other cities. So far, international organizations and forums have not taken any practical steps to end the Baghdad rulers' mischief. Moreover, while they avoid acknowledging the Iraqi regime's crimes, they have merely issued a call to both sides to end the attacks. This is happening while Iraq's official and state-owned newspapers have been continuously stating, since the commencement of the war of the cities, that Iraq will continue to attack cities with missiles and to bomb residential areas until the Islamic Republic of Iran accepts Resolution No 598.

The Security Council's Resolution No 598, the eighth resolution passed by that council since Iraq began its military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, was compiled with U.S. influence, the contents of which they themselves had prepared. This resolution was issued after the fighters of Islam scored victories in the "Nasr" and "Fath" operations and was approved by the Security Council on 20 July 1987. Approvals came after every series of spectacular military victories scored by

the brave fighters of the monotheistic army in the war of good against evil, and after each military defeat by the Ba'thist regime. This manifests the absence of impartiality and the necessary sincerity which the Security Council should have in its approach to the world's political crises. This also shows that the United Nations has never been sincere in its alleged role in justly quelling world political crises.

In June, Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary of state, said: I think that we share a common interest with the Soviets regarding the region, at least temporarily; that is, to prevent an Iranian victory.

The political overtures by the American politicians in approving this resolution show the United States, together with the other permanent members of the Security Council, intended—by imposing a resolution on the Islamic Republic of Iran—to prevent the downfall of the dying Ba'thist regime. Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, went to Moscow in June for talks with Soviet officials. While in Moscow, he stated that the United Nations is nearing the completion of a resolution which calls for a cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war.

U.S. political attempts to attract the attention of the other permanent Security Council members took place at a time when, despite its alleged impartiality in the imposed war, the U.S. Administration had expressed its overt and covert support for the Iraqi regime. In April 1982, the United States lifted the ban on the sale of arms to Iraq and, based on reports by the International Peace Research Institute in Stockholm [words indistinct], it sold a number of transport planes to Iraq. Moreover, after removing Iraq from the list of govenrments supporting terrorism, the United States re-established its diplomatic relations with that country and signed a $1 billion commercial agreement.

Meanwhile, in tandem with U.S. efforts aimed toward the approval of Resolution No 598, Arab heads of state and their officials increased their shuttle trips between the capitals of the Security Council members in order to discuss Iraq's war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. After meeting with UN officials, an Arab League delegation consisting of representatives of Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], Tunisia, and the YAR met with British Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe on 9 July 1987, 12 days before the resolution was approved, and expressed support for the Security Council members' coordinated activities in paving the way for its approval. In addition, in late June Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz went to Argentina and Venezuela, the other member states of the Security Council, as a delegation from the Arab League, and held discussions with the two countries' officials.

All these efforts led to the approval of Security Council Resolution No 598. Its approval, brought about by the political overtures made by the Baghdad regime's mentors, proved that the world's most important international forum, the United Nations, lacks impartiality. The UN Security Council, which on the basis of the UN Charter should be safeguarding international peace and security, has not made any attempt thus far to prevent the Iraqi regime's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This resolution avoids mentioning Iraq's most obvious act—its attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, various governments of the world have affirmed that this is the case and it has been stated by some in their political and personal discussions. At any rate, the fact that Iraq was not mentioned as the aggressor and the fomenter of the war—which is a very important issue—shows the Security Council's one-sided and unjust policy. If the Security Council avoids naming Iraq as the aggressor, this means that it also dares to adopt an unjust decision.

Also, Resolution No 598 exhorts both warring sides to call an immediate cease-fire and to return to their international borders. The following question arises: Why did the Security Council not call on both countries to return to their international borders when the Iraqi Army had thousands of kilometers of the Islamic Republic's territory under its occupation? Resolution No 479—the Security Council's first resolution on the war and issued on 28 September 1980—called on both warring parties to stop resorting to force to solve their differences. At the time, the clear meaning of that resolution was that the cease-fire would be established on the Islamic Republic's territory and the Iraqi forces would remain where they were. However, Resolution No 598 calls on both countries to establish a cease-fire immediately and to return to their international borders.

Even though Resolution No 598 is silent on Iraq's overt aggression, it nevertheless has noteworthy points. The Islamic Republic of Iran has neither completely rejected nor completely accepted this resolution. Article Six calls for the UN secretary general to appoint an impartial delegation to look into who was responsible for the outbreak of the war. In relation to this, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, stated in Shahrivar [month beginning 23 August] this year that the article on the recognition of the aggressor can be described as the only key to resolving the problem.

He said: This is a positive point, but it should be done before the declaration of a cease-fire. The imam's representative added: We are suspicious of the United States and know that they will not remain [words indistinct] (?in act) as soon as the cease-fire is declared. Therefore, we cannot accept this risk. We say that the aggressor must be identified first. This will pave the way for resolving other problems.

Musavi on Strength of Revolution, People
LD071520 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0933 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic revolution of Iran is one of the wonders of the present century. This revolution has been able to rise up against all the orders existing in the world today and, despite all forecasts and predictions, it has been able to persevere for a long time, to remain victorious, to have its roots penetrate deeper in various parts of the world, its leaves and branches spread wider in the world, and its shadow to extend further.

It is natural that this revolution should amaze the big powers, because they know what plots they have hatched to destroy this revolution and how, despite all those plots, the revolution is still standing firm on its feet. [passage omitted].

The big powers have the capability to provide assistance to the murderers who are killing people in the world, in the Third World. They refer to them as progressive elements, progressive, humane, and civilized forces. But they accuse our country—which is fighting against tyranny, injustice, dictatorship, corruption, and materialism—of savagery and of violating their so-called human rights. We do not hear a word from them regarding the events which are taking place in Lebanon, in South Africa, in Latin America. How is it that those organizations, in their resolutions, do not refer to the bloodthirsty, violent and world-devouring leaders of those big powers?

They are present in the world with all their power. Compared to them, both from a quantitative or qualitative point of view, or from any other point of view, we are are only a small country. It is an amazing phenomenon how this revolution, this country, and this nation can stand on its feet and continue its resistance against these waves, these trends, these conspiracies, these international organizations, these world movements, these unholy alliances, this military war, this economic war, and still be the most eloquent and loudest voice of the oppressed humanity of the present age. [passage omitted]

We say to the superpowers, to our enemies: You lack our nation's faith, our nation's aspirations, its wide horizons. You do not have this love, this kindness, this faith and selflessness, and this superior weapon of the age which is at our disposal. In spite of years of effort on your part, your years of unity, and your conspiracies in various areas, we have continued our resistance. I have mentioned this in several places. [passage omitted]

Today, our nation has been awakened by the light of Islam. Now it is able to confront this false grandness, these missiles, these unholy alliances, these pompous international organizations, these complicated political, economic, and military conspiracies, and to come out victorious. If they have eye-catching devices at their disposal, we have something superior which is capable of turning the world upside down. This is what they fear. The reason for the unity of the superpowers is that they are afraid that this morale will spread, that the light of this sun will shine beyond our borders and warm other Muslims in other countries, awaken them, make them daring against these superpowers, and call on them to revolt against the world of arrogance.

This is what we see in our own nation and there are conspiracies against us. We are aware of them in the political arena. I do not wish to discuss them. For instance, since the beginning of the revolution, we had the minigroups, international pressure by world organizations, which have tried to isolate us and silence our voice. They have tried to present us as an isolated country which is about to disintegrate and crumble. The same applies to cultural and propaganda matters as well.

In economic matters, these idiots have not been able and, naturally, will not be able to understand the depth and the meaning of the revolution and the secret of our revolution's success. They used their misinterpretations in economic affairs to launch extensive conspiracies against our Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

Today they wonder how an order can manage the revolution while conducting a war, and how it can still preserve its aspirations without any compromise of its principles and make its cries louder than ever in the defense of the Koran throughout the world. They should, of course, wonder about such news. Why is it that our revolution has been able to hold strong despite all this? [passage omitted]

The people have an allegiance with Imam Husayn and the exalted prophet. The people realize that they must make sacrifices, resist, and give up lives and wealth to preserve Islam and ensure its expansion. God will help them in return, granting them honor, victory, and status. This small nation has become a great attacking force, entrusted with the honor of defending Islam and all humans throughout the world, without a master, overlord, or an entity beyond its territory dictating its policies and actions. [passage omitted]

What happened in Arak, Sanandaj, in heroic Dezful, where 150 missiles exploded, but which continues its resistance as a bustling city in the name of Islam and in the name of God, relates to the very same issue. People are attacked so that fear and fright overwhelm them. It is done so that they may be forced to return to their homes and become disillusioned, and sink in dismay with a feeling of failure; so that they may become isolated and their ranks be broken in disarray. However, just as soon as the trouble strikes, the public fills the arena with more comradeship and more harmony in their hearts.

We call on the great powers, we warn and recommend to them that they are facing a nation ready to give up all for Islam. They cannot frighten such a nation with fear, horror, plots, bombing raids, attacks by missiles, and so on. The public is not after monetary and material gain; the same public rose in our Islamic country and brought victory for the revolution. [passage omitted] This path has no point of return, only advance, struggles, steadfast resistance.

We warn the supporters of Saddam—those who make missiles, aircraft, and bombs available to him—that if they think we might take even a step away from our principles and our path, they are making a mistake. This false belief—that they may preserve their monarchic thrones on plundered oil wells, by moving in the direction of paying tributes of petrodollars to Saddam—will only cause the wrath of our nation, and that of the Islamic ummah and nations against them and their filthy plots. We will provide you with a tooth-crushing response.

We do not see it in your interest to entangle your fates with that of Saddam, as we have decided to destroy Saddam. We are determined to topple that infidel, blood-sucking, oppressive regime in the region. We say to Saddam that he has been defeated on the fronts, that he has not been able to withstand our combatants, despite advanced weapons and the support of great powers. In spite of this our combatants have dealt blows against him. If you cannot withstand our forces, and if you think your savage attacks against our cities and our people will provide you with a glimpse of victory or a way out of trouble, you have certainly made a mistake. Our revolution, people, combatants, government, and the esteemed forces of the corps and the Armed Forces will give a tooth-crushing response to your aggression and obstinacy.

Perhaps a hundred times Saddam has made the claim that he has inflicted economic paralysis upon us, that he has prevented the export of our oil, that he has hit our oil terminals. These are some of the claims by Saddam over many years. Of course, he has carried out all his mischievous acts, he has carried out bombings, he has fired his missiles, he has carried out attacks; but our nation in the entire country, in all areas, in all factories and farms, and in all corners of the country has demonstrated that, in addition to the fronts in the west and the south of the country, there is a vast front as extensive as our country. All members of our nation, in all their trenches, are engaged in a relentless war against the satanic force which is being supported by big satans. They regard every part of the country as a front. Everywhere, you will find this attitude of resistance, steadfastness, offering martyrs. Our fronts are not limited to a few spots. This is the secret of our victory. [passage omitted]

In the course of the war we have experienced something—our power of construction has always been greater than the enemy's destructive power. We have witnessed this in some glorious scenes. This is part and parcel of that great spirit which we witness at the fronts. You remember when the counterrevolutionaries exploded a bomb during Friday prayers in Tehran—you must have seen pictures of it—the people did not even move from their places. They remained steadfast and resisted. The greatness of this—that the people remained in their places, that they were not pereturbed, that there was no panic, that they were conscious of their goal, and were conscious of the plots—was such that if the Islamic revolution were to provide only a few such examples as a sign of its truthfulness, it would be sufficient. In the meeting that we had with those who had been injured as a result of that incident we noticed that all of them hoped to get better so that they could return to the fronts, to the fronts of construction.

Today, our nation is a united nation. Today, all strata of our nation are together. Today, no strata of our society is alone, and all of them are together at times of incidents and at times of struggle. All of them are together in their prayers and in every other social activity. Our beloved clergy are on the scene. Other strata are on the scene. Our doctors are on the scene. Our nurses are on the scene. This is something which Islam and the Koran have taught us, and this can be seen in our country as a blessing from Islam and the Koran. [passage omitted]

Afghan Mujahidin Leader Addresses Gathering

LD081558 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 8, IRNA—Afghan Muslims will fight on till complete withdrawal of Soviet forces and formation of an Islamic government in their homeland, announced leader of Afghanistan's Jamiyat-e Eslami (Islamic Society) Burhanuddin Rabbani, here Tuesday.

Rabbani, addressing a gathering of Afghan refugees, said that Mujahidin affiliated to his Jamiyat-e Eslami accept no coalition government with the present regime in Kabul.

Rabbani, rejecting the ongoing Geneva talks on the Afghan crisis, said Afghan Muslims have not fought to let their destiny be determined in Geneva.

Lauding the Islamic Republic's stand concerning Afghanistan, Rabbani said Iranian authorities have announced this fact that their stance on Afghanistan is not changeable.

Chinese Official Holds Talks With Velayati

LD081805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The head of the Chinese international relations research institute, who was invited to our country by the political and international relations research office of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met with Mr Velayati.

The Chinese official condemned the superpowers' dominance-seeking in the Persian Gulf and said: We believe that the problems of every region must be dealt with and solved by the countries in that region. In the meeting, our country's minister of foreign affairs analyzed the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on reducing tension in the Persian Gulf.

Majlis Approves 1988-1989 Budget Bill

LD081747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The Majlis concluded its debate on the notes of the 1988-1989 Budget Bill. [passage omitted] The single article, 1988-1989 Budget Bill was read out and ratified by the deputies. According to the single article, the country's budget for 1988-1989 is 9,829.347 billion rials of revenues and other sources of credit, and 9,829.347 billion rials of expenditure.

After being approved, the 1988-1989 Budget Bill was sent to the Guardians Council for appraisal.

Conference To Commemorate Iraqi Martyrs Opens

LD070808 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—A conference to commemorate Iraqi martyrs opened here Sunday with participation of a group of Iraqi opposition leaders and representatives of liberation movements. The gathering coincided with the 40th day of martyrdom of prominent Iraqi religious leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi Hakim, who was assassinated by Iraqi agents in the Sudanese capital.

Addressing the audience, Iran's Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi described the late Hakim's assassination as a "horrible crime." He said Iraq has become a land for torturing its Muslim people and it is very painful not to be able to voice the suppression of this nation to international organisations.

On collaboration of international organisations with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said the U.N. and human rights organisations do not recognise more than 500,000 Iraqi immigrants as refugees.

Elsewhere in his speech, the interior minister stressed the undeniable role of the ulema in the uprisings in the occupied Palestine. The people, he said, have set up resistant cells in mosques and the Islamic jihad led by militant ulema invites Muslims to continue their fight against Zionism.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi also denounced efforts by world arrogance and reactionary Arab leaders to involve Syria in their plots. He stressed that even the accords among Arab leaders and between the two superpowers cannot prevent the Muslim Palestinians from following Islam and its liberative principle of "fighting oppression until martyrdom."

Conference Closes 7 Mar

LD072026 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran. March 7, IRNA—A two-day gathering of Iraqi combatant groups including over 300 ulema and politico-social figures, as well as representatives from Islamic movements in Lebanon, Hijaz, Afghanistan and some other countries, concluded here today.

The gathering to mark the 40th day of martyrdom of the prominent Iraqi Alim Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Hakim who was assassinated in Khartoum by Iraqi agents, discussed ways to step-up revolutionary struggles including expansion of military and political operations against the puppet Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq.

In its resolution the gathering hailed the heroic operations of Iraqi mujahidin inside Iraq and condemned Ba'thist attacks on residential areas and hospitals in Iran. The resolution likened Iraqi attacks on Iran's cities to Baghdad's chemical bombardments of its own Kurdish villages. It called on Muslim forces to continue the war until the downfall of the Iraqi regime.

Castigating the Iraqi regime's assassination of Martyr Hoj. Seyyed Mahdi Hakim, the resolution called on the Sudanese Government to identify elements responsible for this dastardly crime, and declare results of its investigations in this regard. The participants also hailed the Muslim uprising in occupied Palestine.

Nepal

Four Ministers Dropped in Cabinet Reshuffle

BK090345 Hong Kong AFP in English 0334 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Kathmandu, March 9 (AFP)—King Birendra replaced four ministers in the cabinet of Premier Marich Man Singh Shrestha in a major government reshuffle Wednesday, Radio Nepal announced.

A palace communique quoted by the radio said the changes had been made on the recommendation of the prime minister.

Forestry Minister Hem Bahadur Malla, Health Minister Gumjewswari Prasad Singh, Commerce Minister Bijaya Prakash Thebe and Agriculture Minister Hari Narayan Rajauriya have been replaced, the communique said.

Two state ministers, Prakash Bahadur Singh (home) and Ramesh Nath Pandey (tourism), were also dropped.

State ministers Bharat Bahadur Pradhan and Keshar Bahadur Bista were promoted to cabinet rank keeping their portfolios of finance and education. Mr. Pradhan however loses the industry portfolio to newcomer Balaram Gharti Magar.

Among other new faces in an expanded cabinet are Dil Bahadur Shrestha, named minister of local supply, Padma Sundar Lawate (land reform and management), Prakash Chandra Lohani (housing and physical development), Shushila Thapa (health) and Mohammad Mohasin (tourism).

Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya remains foreign minister and the defence portfolio is maintained by Mr. Shrestha who has also been given responsibility for royal palace affairs, the communique said.

All six state ministers are new, though a majority of them have previously served in the government, notably Dipak Bohara, the new minister of state for public works and transport, who played a decisive role in the ouster of Surya Bahadur Thapa as prime minister in June 1983.

Eleven new assistant ministers have also been brought in.

Namelist of New Cabinet

BK090539 Hong Kong AFP in English 0528 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Kathmandu, March 9 (AFP)—A full list of the new Nepalese Government announced Wednesday:

Ministers:	
Marich Man Singh Shrestha	prime minister, defence and royal palace affairs
Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya	foreign affairs
Dil Bahadur Shrestha	local supply
Hari Bahadur Basnyat	communications
Padma Sundar Lawate	land reform and management
Pashupati Rana	panchayat and local development
Bala Ram Ghartimagar	industry
Yadav Prasad Pant	water resources
Parshu Narayan Chaudhary	commerce, labour and social services
Prakash Chandra Lohani	housing and physical planning
Shushila Thapa	health
Keshar Bahadur Bista	education
Bharat Bahadur Pradhan	finance
Mohammad Mohsin	tourism
Ministers of state:	
Krishna Charan Shrestha	agriculture
Dipak Bohra	public works and transport
Badri Prasad Mandal	law and justice
Gagan Bahadur Singh	forests
Buddhi Man Tamang	general administration
Niranjan Thapa	home affairs
Assistant ministers:	
Nara Bahadur Budhathoki	home affairs
Chanda Shah	housing and physical development
Krishna Kumar Rai	health and basic needs
Sharat Singh Bhandari	panchayat and local development
Ang Tsering Lama	agriculture and husbandry

Ministers:	
Marich Man Singh Shrestha	prime minister, defence and royal palace affairs
Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya	foreign affairs
Uttam Bahadur Pun	housing and drinking water supply
Keshav Kumar Budhathoki	water resources
Ganesh Prasad Bhatta	forests
Janak Bahadur Shah	horticulture
Prem Bahadur Shahi	local supply
Bisweswar Prasad Marbeta Yadav	industry and clothing
Chettra Pratap Adhikari	education (primary education)
Chettra Bahadur Gurung	public works and transport

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Reiterates Position on Subversion

BK091130 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Those who have been arrested for subversive activities will not be shown any kind of sympathy, and the United National Party [UNP] will do its utmost to wipe out terrorism from the country. This was revealed by President Jayewardene, who was the chief guest at yesterday's ceremony at the Velegadura sports stadium in Kurunegala to mark International Women's Day.

The president said that democracy cannot prevail without political parties and any political party that adopts violence to gain power will not be tolerated. He said the UNP always stood up against threats posed to democracy.

Describing the late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike as a democrat, he said Mr Bandaranaike laid down his life to safeguard democracy in the country. Mr Jayewardene said that the present leadership should also follow his ideas. But, he added that some persons are behaving in a manner contrary to his policy and are treading an opportunistic path.

The president said the 1983 riot was much more serious in nature than the 1971 insurrection, and said similar disturbances cannot be allowed to occur in the future. He said the country would have had to face a grave situation if not for the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. This agreement helped to save many innocent civilian lives.

Speaking about the status of the women in the country, the president said they enjoy equal rights as men and said if there is anything more to be done, he would not hesitate to extend the support. He urged the women to take the lead to propagate the message of peace in the country.

LTTE's Prabhakaran Adopts New Tactics

BK091201 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that intelligence reports revealed that having lost control of the Jaffna Peninsula to Indian troops, the LTTE had resorted to hit-and-run tactics in areas such as Mullaitivu and Vavuniya, while in the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts, Velupillai Prabhakaran has ordered his cadres to instigate the public into staging protest demonstrations and fast against the IPKF as the LTTE was a spent force now.

In the Trincomalee District, the LTTE had made desperate attempts to destabilize the security of Sinhala villagers, but the Sri Lankan Government had acted swiftly and moved in additional troops to protect Sinhala villagers from the LTTE.

2,000 Students Defy LTTE, Give Up Fast

BK091153 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Over 2,000 students, who commenced a fast yesterday at Kalmunai under intimidation and threat by the LTTE, gave up their fast yesterday in defiance of the terrorists. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the adults, however, continued their fast.

The LTTE-inspired fast is one of many planned by LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, aimed at pressurizing the IPKF into agreeing to a cease-fire and to begin negotiations, a proposal which the Indian Government has firmly rejected, as it has conceived that this was yet another LTTE ruse.

IPKF Kills 11 LTTE 'Guerrillas'

BK090711 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Colombo, March 9 (AFP)—Indian troops have killed 11 Tamil guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka, officials said here Wednesday. Soldiers shot dead the rebels Tuesday at Iranamadu, near Killinochchi town, an Indian High Commission (embassy) spokeswoman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

All 11 were with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE), the most powerful separatist group which has rejected a peace accord signed by India and Sri Lanka in July aimed at ending the five-year Tamil separatist conflict. She gave no details.

More than 390 Indian soldiers and 1,350 suspected LTTE fighters have died since New Delhi launched an offensive to disarm the LTTE in October.

In a separate development, police said here Wednesday they had arrested a Tamil youth who claimed he was the bodyguard of a top LTTE leader.

Navaratnam Jeyaratnam, 27, was caught in a Colombo residential district "three or four days ago," spokesman said. Mr. Jeyaratnam claimed he was the bodyguard of Sathasivan Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, the LTTE's former Jaffna regional commander who now lives in southern India and is considered one of the closest aides of LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, the spokesman said. "We are investigating the claim. He is still under interrogation," he added.

Communist Party District Secretary Killed 8 Mar

BK081305 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1232 GMT 8 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—S. Wijayananthan, district secretary for Jaffna of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, was shot in the head this morning in Jaffna by unidentified gunmen, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They said Mr Wijaganathan was also a member of the multipurpose cooperative society of Chunnakam, Jaffna.

4 Officials Resign To Run in Elections

BK081253 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1102 GMT 8 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo March 8 (LANKA PUWATH)—Two deputy ministers and two district ministers in the Sri Lankan Government have resigned to contest the provincial council elections. They are the district minister for Kurunegala, Gamini Jasyawickrema Perera; the district minister for Vavuniya, G.D. Mahindasoma; the deputy minister of women affairs, teaching hospitals [as received], G.V. Punchinilame; and the deputy minister for home affairs, Percy Samaraweeram.